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# THE CRISIS

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## A RECORD OF THE DARKER RACES

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### IN THIS ISSUE

### April, 1955

"TILL VICTORY IS WON"—*By Fred Stripp* ..... 197

IRA ALDRIDGE, SHAKESPEAREAN ACTOR—*By Owen Mortimer* ..... 203

THE NEGRO PROBLEM—INTERPRETED FOR EUROPEANS—*By Otto Leichter* ..... 215

JEWISH BROTHERHOOD NAACP LIFE MEMBER ..... 222

### DEPARTMENTS

WALTER WHITE ..... 227

INVESTORS IN FREEDOM ..... 233

LIFE MEMBERS ..... 235

ALONG THE NAACP BATTLEFRONT ..... 241

BRANCH NEWS ..... 246

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL NEWS ..... 250

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*William Petrini*

YOUTH LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE—*George V. Allen (far right), assistant secretary of state, talks with Rev. Smallwood Williams (center), president Interdenominational Ministers Alliance of Washington, D. C., and Herbert L. Wright (far left) at NAACP National Youth Legislative Conference held in Washington February 3-6, 1955. Mr. Allen told delegates at the conference's closing session on February 6 that good U. S. race relations will contribute more to the cause of world peace than will collective security agreements.*

■ Americans can make this a more Christian world by ridding themselves of racial discrimination

# "'Till Victory Is Won'"*

**By Fred Stripp**

"THIS is my Father's world!" True or false? True *and* false.

True as you watch the sun go down with a "flaming ray", the sky glow with gorgeous colors, indescribable! True as you observe a stream rippling down the mountainside, singing a song of joy on its way to the open sea. True as you stand on the shore of that sea, feeling the rhythm of the breakers as they roll in, reach their peak, and crash on the sands with their foaming spray. True as you gaze upward on a quiet night in the country and marvel with Longfellow as "silently, one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven, blossom the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels".

In these and in numberless other examples from nature this is indeed "my Father's world". For stars, trees, clouds, flowers, and streams have no will of their own. All respond perfectly to the will of the Great Creator. For all of them the affirmation, "This is my Father's world", is true.

But often, all too often, it is false! False when a little American marble champion works his way to the finals in his home city of 700,000, but is not allowed to play for the championship. The other boy is awarded the title by default and goes on to the nationals. Not because our little boy cannot knock the marbles out of the ring, but solely because the little hand that holds the shooter is not white! This in the capital city of the United States of America! False when a beautiful American girl bleeds to death at the very door of the hospital because its beds, its doctors, its nurses, its life saving facilities are for whites only! False when an American family huddles in fear while rocks smash their windows, a bomb crashes into the house and explodes, and large mobs form nightly, parading past the housing project, shouting anti-Negro slogans and threatening death to the terrified family. This is Trumbull Park, Chicago, Illinois, 1954. Appeals to the mayor of Chicago, the chief of po-

* This article was a speech originally delivered at the NAACP regional conference held in Asilomar, California, October 15-17, 1954.

DR. FRED STRIPP *is an associate in speech and debating at the University of California in Berkeley.*

lice, and U. S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell have failed to halt these lawless mobs. Try to imagine how swiftly they would move if the colors were reversed and whites were under attack! To add an ironic touch the license plates on Illinois cars this year carry the slogan, "Land of Lincoln".

### SEGREGATED HOUR

"This is my Father's world"? Not while Americans must undergo such un-American injustice. Not while the hour of eleven o'clock on Sunday morning is still the most segregated hour in American life.

That boat load of African Negroes delivered to the American Colonies in 1619 brought a profit to the slave traders, furnished manpower to the new slave owners, and started a problem which has come flaming down the centuries to explode here and there in slave uprisings, race riots, and lynchings, and to reach a climax of combustion which almost burst the nation in twain in a Civil War! Mid-way in that war, on the first day of January, 1863, Abraham Lincoln read one of the most important documents in the history of man, the Emancipation Proclamation. America is rapidly approaching the one hundredth anniversary of that Proclamation. In the few years that are left the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People wishes to eliminate the final vestiges of discrimination. The Association wants to have a centennial worth celebrating on the first of January, 1963.

It is a shame that a relatively small organization like the NAACP had to take on this tremendous task. This has been an unfulfilled responsibility of the churches for 335 years, since that first slave ship docked here in 1619. How well the churches have discharged the responsibility is seen in the fact that in no area of American life are people more segregated than they are in our churches. This has been an unfulfilled responsibility of the U. S. Government since the day it was formed to do business, the first Wednesday in March, 1789. That this responsibility has not been discharged in 165 years is a moral crime. That we are now pledging allegiance to our flag and adding the phrase, "under God" makes the crime the more glaring. For this nation cannot be "under God" until we provide "liberty and justice for all".

When Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 in 1941, it constituted an appropriate eightieth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. It farbad discrimination by any company holding defense contracts. When Harry Truman issued the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, believers in equality and justice were thrilled. When the Dixiecrat counterthrust failed to defeat him in 1948, the same believers were reassured. But when President Truman tried to make FEPC a permanent agency, Congress killed the Committee by refusing to appropriate the money needed for its continued operation!

### RALLY THE WORKERS

Can the NAACP enlist enough support, rally enough workers, inspire enough Americanism in the people to eliminate discrimination by

January 1, 1963? Until the Supreme Court Decision in the Schools Cases electrified the nation on May 17, 1954, we might have answered, "No, the goal is worthy, it should be reached, but practical reasoning says the time is too brief and the job too big." Now that America and the world have reacted to the decision, we have genuine cause for hope.

A competent political scientist just back from a year's travel and study in Latin America says that our finest stroke of foreign policy in the eyes of Latin America has been the Schools Decision. Nehru, number one man in India, says the same for his people. United Nations' Ralph Bunche commented, "I had never imagined that legal phraseology could be so beautiful, that a court's decision could read like poetry."

But there is opposition to it. Dr. Bunche, from his UN experience, reports that the Communists scoff at it, call it a mere gesture in the Cold War, and insist that it will never be implemented. Governors Byrnes, Talmadge, and White insist that it will never be implemented. And, most unfortunately, so do some Negro leaders. When one of these "Uncle Toms" declared that Negroes preferred segregation in education, he was answered by an angry Negro champion of desegregation, "If you had lived in Jesus' day, Judas never would have gone down in history. You would have sold the Master out for half the price!"

To all those who say it will never happen, Attorney Thurgood Marshall, legal expert primarily responsible for the NAACP case before the Supreme Court, gives this convincing answer: These are the very same people who said the Negro would never vote in southern white primaries. Following the court decision in Austin, Texas, Negroes are voting in all southern primaries today. These are the same people who said the Negro would never attend white southern universities. Following several court decisions increasing numbers of Negroes are attending these universities every year. These are the very same people who said that Negroes would never march side by side with whites in the armed forces. Now they are marching, sailing, flying, fighting, and dying side by side in all branches of the service.

### NO TIME TO WASTE

Attorney Marshall insists that the NAACP is too busy to waste time on southern politicians who are willing to wreck the law to be reelected, or upon Negroes so indoctrinated by such southern politicians that they think they will be happier as second class citizens than as 100 per cent Americans.

Dr. George Mitchell, caucasian M.D. from Atlanta, Georgia, says we need not be frightened by what the southern governors say, for the common people say, "It's coming." And when a man says that, there's no fight left in him. The Doctor quotes one white southerner's comment on Governor Byrnes, "When a tree is cut and has fallen to the ground, that's no time to holler 'Hold 'er back!' "

Dr. Bunche believes that the decision will be implemented because of the white southerners who believe in America. He declared that there are no more devoutly patriotic citizens and none more stout-hearted on the

battlefields when our nation must be protected than the sons of the South. Who, therefore, better than the white southerner can understand the Negro's burning desire to join hands with all his fellow citizens in building on these American shores and plains the greatest and strongest and most democratic society that mankind has ever known?

Looking back, then, to the very recent days when we did not have integration in the armed forces, when we did not have Negroes attending white southern universities, when none of the states and none of the cities had FEPC laws, when restrictive covenants were still enforceable in American courts, and when the doctrine of "separate but equal" enforced segregation in the schools, may we not look forward to the task remaining before us with justifiable hope that the job may be consummated by January 1, 1963?

When the NAACP launched its Fighting Fund for Freedom at the June convention of 1953, with the declared intention of wiping out discrimination by January 1, 1963, this gave us 9 years and 6 months to complete the job. That this was not simply a wild burst of idealism may be seen by looking back over the 9 years and 6 months preceding that 1953 convention. That would take us to January 1, 1944.

#### IMPORTANT MILESTONES

It was in April of 1944 that the court decision in Austin, Texas, broke the all-white southern primary. Today Negroes are voting in all southern primaries. It was in 1945 that the first state FEPC laws were passed in New York and New Jersey. Today there are 18 state FEPC laws and 28 city FEPC laws. It was in April of 1947 that Jackie Robinson signed with the Dodgers. Today there are so many top flight colored ball players that one hesitates to mention any for fear of unintentionally omitting some reader's favorite. It was in May, 1948, that the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that racial restrictive covenants are no longer enforceable in the courts, an important milestone on the road to integrated housing. It was in July, 1948, that President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 forbidding discrimination in the Armed Services. Starting with the Air Force and ending this year with the Army every branch in the service is well on the way to full integration today. It was 1950 when court decisions in Texas and Oklahoma started the ever increasing parade of Negro students into formerly all-white Southern universities.

If these monumental gains can be made in a period of 9 years and 6 months, perhaps we can complete the excellent start made in FEPC, implement the Supreme Court decision against segregation in the schools, conquer the gargantuan problem of integrated housing, and having taken all these other major steps, persuade even the churches that segregated worship is both un-American and un-Christian, and finish by January 1, 1963!

What must we do to achieve this Emancipation Centennial, this goal which would gladden the heart of the great humanitarian who read the original Proclamation in 1863, this goal which would in some measure atone for the sacrifices of all those who down the years from 1619 to

1954 have died on slave ships, perished from lynchings, shootings, and beatings, all the innocents who have rotted in jails, all the countless Negro-Americans who have suffered insults, injustices, and terrors, this monumental indescribable inhumanity to man?

### COURAGEOUS ORGANIZATION

First, we can join and support the NAACP, the courageous organization spear-heading this drive. Little contributions from all over America have made possible the NAACP legal victories in the fields of housing, education, and civil rights. Second, we can start integration in our neighborhoods, schools, and churches. Whites and Negroes should work together for integrated neighborhoods. We must avoid the shortsighted practice of taking over a residential block for colored families. This is not integration. This is a geographical extension of segregation. And *until our neighborhoods are integrated* with all racial and religious groups free to buy or rent purely on the basis of ability to pay and the willingness to be good neighbors, segregation in most other areas will continue. Third, we can elect men to office who will vote for civil rights, for FEPC, and against the filibuster in the Senate of the United States. Reactionaries in both parties have blocked legislation far too long. Clear them out and let the liberals have a chance to give America back her soul.

Lastly we can sing together that great anthem which has inspired so many of the brave fighters for freedom in the past. James Weldon Johnson lifted this verse right out of the hearts of Negro-Americans everywhere:

Lift ev'ry voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with harmonies of Liberty,
Let our rejoicing rise
Hight as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.


***Why Don't You Join the Civil Rights Brigade by Taking Out a Membership in the NAACP?***

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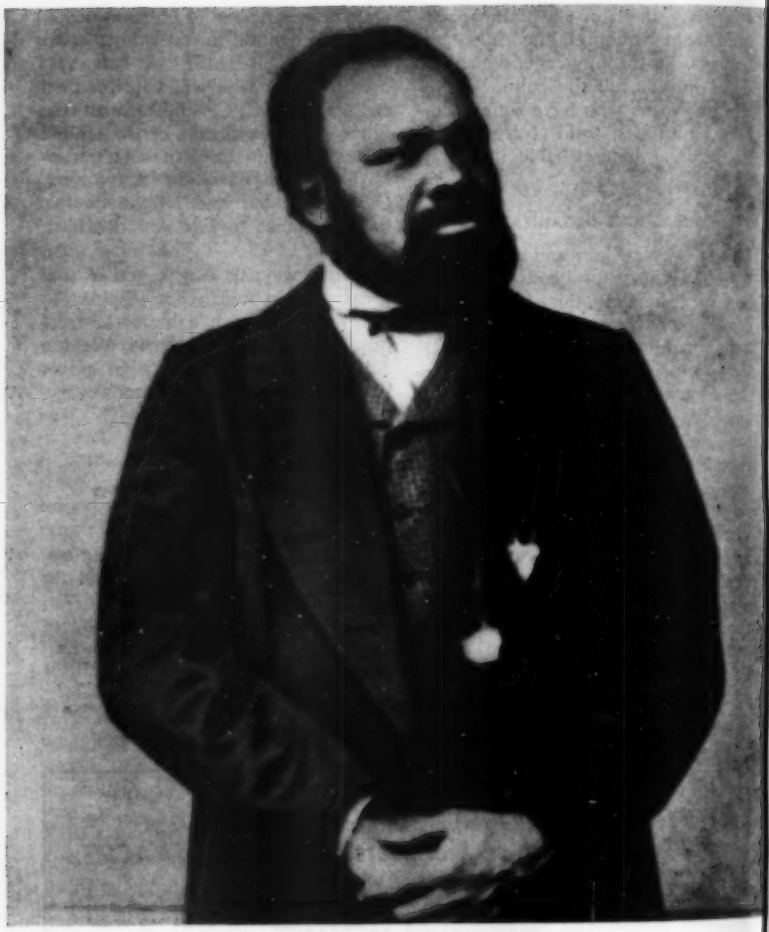

IRA ALDRIDGE

(1807-1808-1810(?) — August 7, 1867)

**A Sketch of one of the world's great actors, a man professionally acclaimed throughout Europe during the 19th century**

# Ira Aldridge, Shakespearean Actor

**By Owen Mortimer**

IN A letter from Dublin on January 3, 1932, to the manager of the Theatre Royal at Bath, England, the famous English actor Edmond Kean wrote: "I beg to introduce to your notice Mr. Aldridge, the African Roscius, whose performances I have witnessed with great pleasure. He possesses wondrous versatility. . . ."

Kean's admiration for the young American Negro actor Ira Aldridge, then 25 years old, reflected the popularity and importance which Aldridge had acquired in the English, Scottish and Irish provincial theatres since his professional debut on the London stage as a youth of nineteen. An Irish critic, writing at the same time as Kean, is quoted in the *Memoir and Theatrical Career of Ira Aldridge, The African Roscius*:

This highly-gifted individual, Mr. Aldridge, the celebrated African Roscius, has been sojourning in Tipperary for the last week, and has received from the inhabitants of the town generally, as well as of the surrounding country, a tribute of respect seldom tendered to any of the Thespian fraternity. . . .

We hesitate not in saying that, as a representative of the 'Great Avon Bard,' Mr. Aldridge in few characters has ever been excelled—nor in his just conception of the writings of that immortal poet have any of his predecessors shown so perfect an intimacy with, or so deep a knowledge of, the intentions of the great dramatist. On the boards . . . he has no competitor, and we may justly say, in Shakespeare's words, 'We ne'er shall look upon his like again.'

In private life the pleasing and happy manners—the gentle and unassuming deportment—the suavity and grace with which Mr. Aldridge is endowed—have won for him many friends, whose esteem will, we trust, be as permanent as his theatrical fame will be pre-eminently lasting.

Like Quintus Roscius, the slave actor of ancient Rome, Ira had won his "sock and buskin" as a professional player in the face of the

---

OWEN MORTIMER, *a graduate of St. Ignatius' College, Sydney, Australia, and Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, has been engaged in research on the life and art of Ira Aldridge since 1949.*

enemy under steady fire.

### RUDELY IGNORED

Bigots actually questioned his right to appear on the stage. "There is something so absurd about it—a man of color acting in the Drama!" exclaimed theatre manager Calcraft when Aldridge wrote for engagements. Another theatre manager, MacDonnell, postponed his appointments with the young actor indefinitely, finally refusing to see him. Hurt but undaunted, Aldridge demanded word from him, "not being aware of having merited such neglect." The brief letters written by Aldridge to MacDonnell in 1935 appealing for engagements are preserved today in the New York Public Library.

Furthermore, the elegant young savants of Charles Dickens' circle who publicly lamented the sorrows of slavery turned their backs on the young Negro actor and rudely ignored him. When one of them, playwright Douglas Jerrold, heard that Aldridge was to portray the heroic Moor Zanga in Edward Young's tragedy *The Revenge*, he snorted indignantly: "An insufferable piece of vulgarity!" Another esthete of the Dickens' circle, comedian Charles Mathews, added a scene ridiculing the young tragedian's love of Shakespeare to his repertoire "Trip to America" for the delight of the English gentry. Aldridge was also popular as a comedian, notably in the role of the droll slave Mungo in Isaac Bickerstaff's farce *The Padlock*, a role he played throughout his career, and, recognizing Mathews' professional jealousy, he announced with his usual dignity: "I need not say that the whole of the ludicrous scene so well and so humorously described by Mr. Mathews never occured at all."

Moreover, actors from his native land were enraged at Aldridge's brilliance and popularity, as the author of the *Memoir* observed in 1848:

> Prejudices, too, will come even across the great Atlantic . . . and of this fact Mr. Aldridge has been repeatedly reminded upon coming in contact with actors from the United States. . . .
>
> American actors, and some actors who have been in America, to this very day, scoff at the African 'because that he is black,' while they themselves are but little admired for all their whiteness. . . .

For Aldridge and his English wife this was the bitterest period of his career—year after year of insults, indignities, public ridicule in the newspapers, broken contracts, worthless promises, anonymous threats, doors shut in his face, mockery, libel, slander, one brutal attack after another. The young actor cried out in protest: "Bigotry and fanaticism have excited themselves in all possible shapes to annoy the professors of the dramatic art. . . ."

Viewed in the context of slavery, the Continental period of his career is also remarkable.

### RACIST NEW YORK

When Aldridge was speaking the eloquent lines of Shakespeare to huge audiences in Germany, the tenement houses on Sullivan Street in New York where his parents had once lived as "free Negroes" were raided and looted and set afire by white hoodlums. *Harper's Weekly* was recording these lynching forays in the

northern states and the flight of desperate slaves from the South at the same time that European newspapers were announcing Aldridge's gala reception in Berlin and Vienna and Petersburg. Hundreds of young admirers bearing scrolls of greeting and garlands of flowers welcomed him at the brightly-lit railway stations along the route of the Cologne Express and at the gay, flag-decked steamer landings on the Rhine and Danube. Students from the University of Moscow were so excited after seeing him play Othello that they unhitched the horses from his carriage and pulled it through the street themselves.

From the year in which he made his first theatrical tour of the Continent, 1852, until 1867, the year of his death, Aldridge was celebrated as one of the great figures of the age, personally admired and professionally acclaimed by the peoples of Europe, and, in the words of *The Oxford Companion to the Theatre*, "generally regarded as one of the finest actors of the day." In kingdom after kingdom of the Continent the towering, dignified celebrity—handsome and dark-featured, dressed in the height of fashion—attracted the attention of the humble and the mighty. His excellence as a Shakespearean actor was honored with jewels and prizes and the highest of state distinctions. He was also elected to life membership in the leading academies of arts and sciences in Germany, Austria, Hungary and Russia. On January 25, 1853, the King of Prussia struck the Large Gold Medal of Arts and Sciences in his honor, a great distinction which the Negro actor shared with only three other world-famous men—the Hungarian pianist and composer Franz List, the German philosopher and scientist Baron von Humboldt, and the Italian composer Luigi Spontini. The people of the city of Berne presented him with the coveted White Cross of Switzerland in 1854. And in one German state, Saxe Meiningen, on January 31, 1858, Aldridge was given the title Chevalier, Knight of Saxony, by the ruling noble Duke Bernhard.

What enhanced all these distinctions was explained by *The Illustrated London News* on July 3, 1858, when it stated: "Mr. Aldridge is the only actor, native or foreign, so decorated."

### EXCITING INTERPRETATIONS

Wherever Shakespeare was discussed the name of Ira Aldridge was mentioned and his exciting interpretations debated, for his repertoire at the height of his fame included the three great tragic roles of Macbeth, King Lear, and Othello. His admirers were eloquent: "To see the great Negro tragedian on the stage is like watching the most beautiful sight in all nature—the waterfalls at Niagara."

Many of his admirers maintained that the greatest role in his repertoire was the role of Macbeth. Sergei Durylin, who has made a profound study of the art of Ira Aldridge from the words of German and Russian scholars of his time, brings Aldridge's Macbeth to life:

Aldridge was just as natural in the role of Macbeth as he was in the role of Othello. In his interpretation Macbeth is a severe northern warrior whose emotions are wrapped in armor. Only

one emotion—ambition, the insatiable lust for power—breaks through his armor, making him kill the king and usurp the throne. In killing Duncan he acts not as a leader nor as one man killing a rival but as a cowardly murderer who is afraid of the rustle of his own garments.

The Macbeth of Aldridge is a man of his century—he is superstitious, and it is not his own will that guides him in removing Duncan but the words of the witches. In this seemingly proud and wilful man there always lurks the fear of his crime. Only in battle, in the accustomed surroundings of the battlefield, does Macbeth become a leader again, afraid of nothing, not even fate itself. He is killed but he is undefeated. . . .

His magnificent princely garments, his royal bearing, the warmth that he radiates, that flows from his entire person—all this leaves the ordinary theatrical performances far behind. . . .

In the last act Aldredge's artistry is most remarkable when he runs down the mountain in silent desperation and afterwards when he fights Macduff. Those who saw the play for the first time felt that the battle with Macduff should be the logical ending of the tragedy for it was not just an ordinary tournament of gladiators but battle elevated and glorified.

To the roles of the three tragic heroes, Aldridge added the role of Shylock which he revised with revolutionary insight and daring, thrusting aside much of the text, abolishing the final act entirely, creating new scenes of silent acting and presenting the character as a tragic figure.

Since Shakespeare first created the role of Shylock in the race hatred and hysteria following the trial and execution of Dr. Ruy Lopez, Jewish physician to Queen Elizabeth, Jewish scholars had denounced it as a hideous caricature of an entire people, a fraud and an utter perversion of truth. Aldridge bore this denunciation in mind. His highly sympathetic interpretation aroused much controversy when he first presented it in England in 1833, at a time when the petitions of English Jews for civil rights and an end to segregation were being grimly laughed out of the Houses of Parliament. The Shakespearean professors were aghast and, gathering their academic gowns around them, they swept from the theatres, haughtily announcing: "We permit no man to stand between us and Shakespeare." The racists snarled: "The black actor is in league with the Jews!" While in the ghettoes of England and the Continent, stained with the blood of centuries of pogroms, the tragic Shylock was considered Aldridge's finest achievement.

### ALDRIDGE'S SHYLOCK

Aldridge's Shylock was described as "the bearer of the sorrow and tragedy of his hunted people" and drama critics in Germany and Russia compared it with the concept of *The Wandering Jew* in Romantic Literature. Articles which discussed Aldridge's interpretation in the Continental journals of 1858 have been collected and analyzed by Durylin:

In Shylock, Aldridge pictures beautifully the type of medieval Jew who is rich and proud, but constantly abused and insulted by the surrounding Christian society.

He was superb in the scene where he wonders whether or not to cut the pound of flesh from the Christian. How his eyes sparkled wrathfully and jubilantly when, for a moment, he almost decided to take revenge on at least one

IRA ALDRIDGE *as Shylock added an original ending to the great Shakespearean tragedy.*

Christian for everything that he had suffered with all his brethren!

And the last scene is not less remarkable. Shylock is being read all the punishments that he must undergo for his attempt on the life of a citizen of Venice, but regardless of how unbearable these are, he listens to the judges, seemingly unimpressed by them, until he hears that one of the punishments will be his adoption of Christianity.

Then he first begins to shudder and lets out a horrified moan. After that, when one of the men seizes him by his robes, all the contempt and revulsion toward the Christian comes to life in the Jew, and Aldridge makes a wonderful mute scene out of it. The Jew forgets that he is in a room and that he belongs to the oppressed, powerless people who are never forgiven anything. He violently jerks his robes out of the unclean hands of the Christian, then he takes out a handkerchief and very meticulously wipes the place on his garment that was soiled by the unclean touch. After that, he looks with revulsion and disgust at this handkerchief which is itself now besmirched, and finally throws it with indignation at the Christian and breaks down, weeping bitterly, then departs.

For this famous ending of the tragedy, this magnificent mute scene of which we do not find any suggestion in Shakespeare, Aldridge was criticized by both enemy and friend, presumably because Shakespeare did not write it that way. . . .

To all his critics, Aldridge calmly replied that he was aware of Schiller's warning: "Let no-one lay hands on Shakespeare's works to change something essential about them—that will always bring its own punishment with it"; but that, nothwithstanding, he was attempting adaptations of the Bard. A letter written by him on October 2, 1860, to this effect is preserved in the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington.

### ALDRIDGE'S KING LEAR

Aldridge had first played Othello, the role with which the name was interwoven throughout his lifetime, as a boy of nineteen in his debut performance at London's Royalty Theatre. It was not until he was a man of 45 that he attempted to create the Shakespearean role which crowned his professional career—the role of King Lear. Continental journals acclaimed his portrayal, among them the journal *Contemporary*, edited by the poet Nekrasov, which reviewed his performances in October, 1862:

. . . The moments of anger in Lear do not mean that he is an evil man, nor do they come from his harshness. Rather they are products of his highly-developed sense of truth and justice and his desire to do good. This was well understood by Aldridge. Lear believes that everything under the sun exists and lives according to the laws of goodness. His deep love for his daughters and his division of the estate is a product of this conviction. The king, who had been removed from real life by the very fact that he was a king, does not know that actually life is governed by the laws of the beasts, that 'men are wolves to one another.' So the man Lear does not know mankind because the king Lear knew only the nobility of the court.

Finally there comes tragedy to Lear. Once he ceases to be the king and becomes a simple man he experiences disappointment after disappointment. He sees life only from the side of evil and brute force, which were previously hidden from him by the walls of his castle. He is shocked almost out of his mind. He finds his loneliness unbearable and he strives to reach the

AMANDA IRA ALDRIDGE, *distnguished composer, pianist, and teacher of voice, the youngest of Aldridge's four children. Miss Aldridge lives in London, England.*

poor, the wronged and the persecuted. The king dies in him and the man is born in terrible agony. This is the ingenious interpretation of Aldridge—an interpretation of a transition from a king to a man, a man who finds satisfaction and peace from his bitter, torturous wanderings only in death. . . .

Acting in the drama of Shakespeare, Aldridge was realizing a boyhood dream dating from those poignant years when he and his brother Joshua had watched James Hewlett, Negro star and director of New York's African Company, playing Shakespearean roles. But white hoodlums had destroyed the little theatre and driven its star from the stage, and Ira, horrified, had fled to England.

Other roles played during his career included Shakespeare's King Richard III; Aaron the Moor in Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* which he revised; the title roles in Charles Maturin's tragedy *Bertram*, Walter Scott's *Rob Roy*, Schiller's *William Tell*, and Thomas Southerne's *Oroonoko* from the novel by Aphra Behn denouncing slavery; Rolla the Peruvian patriot in Kotzebue's tragedy *Pizarro;* and Dred the Avenger, heroic leader of a rebel band of American Negro slaves, in the melodrama based on Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel *Dred*. Playbills advertising these and other roles from Aldridge's repertoire are preserved in the New York Public Library and the Harvard Theatre Collection.

### GIVEN STATE FUNERAL

He died at Lodz, Poland, on August 7, 1867, on one of his tours. His body lay in state in the Hotel Haentschla and he was given a solemn state funeral, described in the Polish press, notably *The Warsaw Courier*. The medals with which he had been decorated were borne in front of his coffin on a state cushion together with a hero's laurel wreath. The funeral procession was led by the President of the City of Lodz and city dignitaries. Now a national shrine in Lodz, his grave is marked by a monument which bears a picture of him wearing the robes and jewels of Othello, and is cared for by the Society of Polish Artists of the Film and Theatre.

Other memorials to Aldridge include the Memorial Chair dedicated to him in the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon, and the famous statue of him done by Italian sculptor Pietro Calvi in Vienna at the height of Aldridge's career which stands today in the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature and History at the New York Public Library. His portrait hangs in museums, libraries, theatres and actors' clubs throughout Europe.

Of Ira Aldridge's four children, the youngest is still living—the distinguished composer, pianist and teacher of voice, Amanda Ira Aldridge, who resides in London. Her most famous students are Marion Anderson, Paul Robeson, and Roland Hayes. *The Crisis* of February, 1934, published an interview with Amanda Ira Aldridge entitled "Centenary of Negro Drama" by Archibald Haddon. Miss Aldridge has not only won acclaim as an artist and teacher in her own right but she has also upheld the noble heritage of her famous father.

Documents of his time (memoirs, diaries, letters, essays and drama re-

views) show that Aldridge was indeed one of the eminent men of the nineteenth century and one of the world's greatest actors. In the United States during his lifetime his own people ranked him with the beloved Abolitionist statesman Frederick Douglass. Aldridge donated a large part of his personal wealth to the funds of the American Abolitionists but he made his most splendid contribution to the struggle of his people on the stages of Europe, presenting man in all his massive dignity and enriching the ancient art of acting with his understanding and excellence.

### ERRORS ABOUT ALDRIDGE

Notwithstanding his genius and his significance in theatre history, an alarming amount of error and falsehood regarding Aldridge fills English-language magazines, books, and encyclopedias.

As recently as January 22, 1944, *The New Yorker* made the incredible statement in a sophisticated, racist article that "Aldridge's interpretation [of Othello] was, to judge by the contemporary critiques, nothing much!" To realize how false and misleading this remark is one has only to glance at those critiques.

One famous critique is that of French critic Théophile Gautier, who wrote in 1858:

> During my sojourn in the City of the Czars, Ira Aldridge, the celebrated American Negro actor, happened to be there for a while. He was the lion of Petersburg. He was performing at the Hippodrome, which is not far from the Grand Theatre, and in order to obtain a seat at one of his matinees I found it necessary to apply for tickets some days in advance. . . .
>
> His appearance on the stage was one of supreme magnificence: It was Othello himself, just as Shakespeare created him—with his eyes half-closed as if dazzled by the African sun, his nonchalant Oriental bearing, and that easy Negroid gracefulness that no European can ever imitate. . . .
>
> The great Negro tragedian . . . possessed a style of acting which was sober, steady, classical and majestic, much resembling that of Macready. . . . He unquestionably produced a stupendous effect, and inspired endless applause.

Another critique from the Continental journal *Le Nord,* written at the same time as the words of Gautier, also describes Aldridge's Othello:

> From his appearance on the stage the African artist completely captivated his audience by his harmonious and resonant voice, and by a style full of simplicity, nature and dignity. For the first time we have seen a tragic hero walk and talk like common mortals, without declamations and without exaggerated gestures. We forgot that we were in a theatre and followed the dream as if it had been a real transaction.
>
> The scene in the third act, when the sentiment of jealousy is roused in the ferocious Moor, is the triumph of Aldridge. At the first word of the wily insinuation you see his eye kindle; you feel the tears in his voice when he questions Iago, then the deep sobs which stifle it; and finally, when he is persuaded that his wretchedness is complete, a cry of rage, or rather a roar like that of a wild beast, starts from his abdomen. I still seem to hear that cry; it chilled us with fear and made every spectator shudder. Tears wet his cheeks; his mouth foamed and his eyes flashed fire. I have never seen an artist identify himself so perfectly with the character which he represents.
>
> An actor told me he saw him sob

for some moments after his exit from the scene. . . . Rachel is the only artist who ever produced so great an effect.

And on September 14, 1872, forty years after seeing him play Othello, Maurice Lenihan, Member of the Royal Irish Academy, wrote to the editor of *Notes and Queries*:

He played Othello admirably, and at this distance of time I may state, with perfect truth, that I have seldom seen the part acted with greater truthfulness and power than characterized his delineation of the passions of the jealous Moor: love, doubt, hatred, revenge.

#### FALSIFIED NEGRO HISTORY

Hence it will be seen that sources such as *The New Yorker, Lamb's Biographical Dictionary of the United States*, and others, falsify Negro history and perpetuate the hateful attitudes of proslavery organizations and newspapers which savagely campaigned against Ira Aldridge during his lifetime.

"If this presumptuous Negro dares to act with English men and women he will be crushed with our merciless battering rams!" screamed the hysterical critics of the pro-slavery press in England early in Aldridge's career. "Every theatre in the British Isles must be closed rather than allow Ira Aldridge to play Shakespeare in London!" This was the outrageous demand of the pro-slavery class in English society; those lords and ladies and gentlemen of letters who were borne to the theatres in gilded carriages driven by Negro coachmen and attended by wistful little Negro page-boys dressed in servant's livery.

Typical of such depraved attitudes to Aldridge was the "drama review" of his appearance as Othello at Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, which appeared on April 13, 1833, in the disdainful columns of *The Athenaeum*. The young actor was insulted and vilified in one sentence after another—and also those colleagues who stood beside him: the French manager of Covent Garden, Pierre Laporte; the English actress Ellen Tree, who played Desdemona; and the English actor Henry Wallack, influential friend of Aldridge—until the cultured critic completely dropped his mask and spoke in his own racist tongue:

In the name of common propriety and decency, we protest against an interesting actress and lady-like girl, like Miss Ellen Tree, being subjected by the manager of a theatre to the indignity of being pawed about by Mr. Henry Wallack's black servant; and finally, in the name of consistency, if this exhibition is to be continued, we protest against acting being any longer dignified by the name of art.

But Aldridge and his allies refused to be intimidated by these attacks, and the ovation he received when he played at Covent Garden was foreseen by friends from the actors' club (Garrick Club House) who distributed handbills on the streets of London asking for "fair play" and condemning the "base and unmanly attempts" against him:

His heinous offense is that he was born in Africa, and though 'descended from a line of kings,' his skin is too dark to enable him to personate the 'Dusky Moor,' even though he may possess the genius of a Kean, the classic taste of a Kemble, combined with the dramatic experience of a Garrick!

This historic handbill addressed to the people of London on April 6, 1833, is preserved today in the Harvard Theatre Collection.

### ALDRIDGE IGNORED

In addition to falsehood and error regarding his life and art, there are countless volumes devoted to theatre history and Shakespearean art which do not even mention Aldridge!

Why is his appearance at Covent Garden conspicuously absent from the elaborate two-volume theatre history *The Annals of Covent Garden Theatre* by Henry Saxe Wyndham? Why is Théophile Gautier's famous drama criticism of Aldridge in the roles of King Lear and Othello omitted entirely from English and American translations of Gautier's works? This shocking fact was revealed by W. Napoleon Rivers, Junior, in *The Crisis* of January, 1932. Why is Negro history considered unworthy of the attention of the historians of the United States?

One Shakespearean work after another ignores Aldridge, yet an increasing number of documents prove beyond question that his genius added lustre to Shakespearean drama. In the duchies and kingdoms of nineteenth-century Germany, where Schlegel's translations of Shakespeare were popular, Aldridge played in a blaze of glory. A drama critic in Danzig wrote:

> Ira Aldridge is the greatest dramatic artist we have ever had. . . . The critics of Berlin have completely exhausted themselves in praising this lion of the day. His Othello, Macbeth and Shylock leave him without a rival in the annals of the theatre. . . .

Also, much of the popular enthusiasm for Shakespearean tragedy in Russia at the end of the nineteenth century was credited to Aldridge's magnificent performances there, a fact discussed by Sergius Kara-Mourza in *The Crisis* of September, 1933. Aldridge was the guest of the Tolstoys during his tour of Russia, and the leading artists and scientists went to his performances. Russian actors and actresses, accompanied by teachers and Shakespearean scholars, attended his concerts as though they were lessons in dramatic art. His acting was closely examined and he himself eulogized. He was addressed as "Ira Aldridge, the Great Interpreter of the Ever-Living Shakespeare," and honored for introducing *Macbeth* to Russian audiences. Aldridge's influence in Russia was stated dramatically in *Tales of the Past*, the memoirs of the great actor and teacher Vladimir Davydov who confided that Aldridge had inspired him to become an actor and to found his theatre school. Davydov was a teenage boy when he first saw Aldridge on the stage, an experience that remained vivid throughout his lifetime:

> I remember Aldridge in his role of Othello very well in spite of the fact that several decades have passed since I saw him. I clearly remember his portrayal. And I say that neither Rossi nor Salvini whose performances I saw later could overshadow my memories of Aldridge's Othello.

### RUSSIAN OVATION

Aldridge's own words described his ovation in Russia as "an unparalleled success" in a letter he wrote to Dr. James McCune Smith of New York which was published in the New York newspaper *The Anglo-African* on June 23, 1860, preserved today in the Howard University Library. In testimonial ceremonies, Aldridge was presented with a pic-

ture of Shakespeare bearing the eloquent inscription: "To Ira Aldridge from the Russian Actors—Your Wisdom, Talent and Noble Effort have revealed the Great Shakespeare to us. We will never forget Othello, Shylock and King Lear." Therefore it is not surprising that Sergei Durylin's book *Ira Aldridge*, published in Moscow in 1940 and reviewed by *The Journal of Negro History* in July, 1941, is a richly-documented and highly interesting biography of the great actor. This authoritative work is available in the United States at the Library of Congress.

The year 1957 will mark the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Ira Aldridge, a year which will be celebrated by European theatres and cultural organizations in honor of the unique and lofty role played in theatre history by the great Negro actor.

### IRA ALDRIDGE SOCIETY

Several Ira Aldridge scholars in the United States have joined hands to organize the Ira Aldridge Society with the purpose of restoring the forgotten name of the great actor and advancing Negro art and culture within the theatre of his native land in preparation for the 150th Anniversary celebrations. Leading the Founding Committee of the Ira Aldridge Society is Mildred Stock of New York whose careful research has uncovered many important facts on Aldridge's life and art. Distinguished artists who have joined the Founding Committee in New York include Frank Silvera, actor, director and film star, and Frederick O'Neal, vice-president of Actor's Equity Association, founder of the American Negro Theatre, and formerly founder and director of the Aldridge Players of St. Louis, Missouri. Members of the Founding Committee in Chicago include Charlemae Rollins, nationally-recognized authority on children's literature, and Pearl Williams, founder and director of the Richard B. Harrison Players of Chicago. Lectures, theatrical exihibits and children's programs in New York and Chicago during February, 1955, announced the formation of the Ira Aldridge Society to the public. Similar activities are planned for San Fransico and other cities under the auspices of the Founding Committee.

The words of a devoted Ira Aldridge scholar, Arthur A. Schomburg, might indeed become the slogan of the Ira Aldridge Society. Mr. Schomburg, who gave many years of his life to collecting souvenirs and documents of the great actor's career, wrote in a letter to Amanda Ira Aldridge on June 20, 1936: "We intend to let the young people know of his achievements!" Such is the purpose of the Ira Aldridge Society.

Will not the young people rejoice in the knowledge of the achievements of Ira Aldridge? And take heart and hope and courage from the great actor's noble life and art? And gather strength to go forward to ever more beautiful achievements?

■ This author looks at the Negro problem through European eyes

# The Negro Problem — Interpreted For Europeans

By Otto Leichter

WHEN EUROPEANS speak about the problem of the American Negro in the South, they usually see it in terms of their own experiences which they consider similar. As a rule, they ask three main questions:

Are Negroes like some of the oppressed European nationalities which won independence after World War I?

Are the Negroes an exploited class?

Are they persecuted like the Jews or other Non-Germanic peoples were in Hitler's Germany?

When I recently toured the South as a correspondent for European newspapers, these three avenues of approach seemed to me like the most direct way to tell Europeans what the main aspects of the race question in the South were and what they were not.

When I embarked on my trip I was well aware of how shocked many Europeans, particularly friends of the United States, were at occasional clashes between white and colored U.S. soldiers in Western Europe and Austria. After one of the leading Austrian women trade unionists had toured the South under the auspices of the U.S. State Department, she told me: "Seeing Negroes in the South, I could not help

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OTTO LEICHTER, *a naturalized American of Austrian descent who lives in New York City, has, as a correspondent of newspapers in Austria, Western Germany, and Switzerland, interpreted America to Europeans for the past ten years. He has just published a book* AMERIKA WOHIN? REALITAET GEGEN IDEOLOGIE *(Whither America? Reality Vs. Ideology) Europa-Verlag, Wien-Zuerich, comparing the patterns of recent economic, social and cultural developments in the United States and Europe.*

thinking of unpleasant experiences during the Nazi days when I suddenly saw my Jewish friends treated as citizens without rights." The immense interest in the Negro problem which I found during an extended lecture trip through Europe in 1953, was one of the reasons for my exploratory trip through the southern states. Being of European background myself, but having lived in the United States for almost two decades, I set out to interpret for European consumption the race situation in the South, particularly after the Supreme Court decision on school segregation.

All the vast and diversified problems were epitomized in a short discussion with a young Negro newspaperman, a former Nieman fellow at Harvard University. He drove me through some of the colored sections of Atlanta. With considerable pride he showed me, first, large residential sections with new ranch-style houses that reminded me of Westchester County, New York, the Main Line near Philadelphia or some sections of Los Angeles. The people who lived there were in the ten-thousand-dollar-plus income bracket.

We drove on and came to slums consisting of broken-down shacks and unpaved streets. For a moment we stopped at a very dilapidated section in front of the municipal garbage disposal plant. We discussed the widening economic and social gaps among Negroes. What my guide told me, ran about like this: Great social differences are making themselves felt in the Negro community. The well-to-do Negro has about the same opinions on economic and social issues as the well-to-do white man. Negroes in higher income groups complain about high taxes and many would say that the trade unions are asking for too much. Several owners of Negro newspapers (including the one for which my friend worked) supported the Republicans in 1952 while the vast majority of the Negro voters chose the Democrats.

"In what, then, consists the solidarity between the Negroes of very different walks of life?" I asked. "Well," said the editor, "no matter how much money the fellow from the lovely ranch-houses may have in his pocket, he is as unable as this man here in the shacks, to go to a clean hotel, a decent restaurant or, except under humiliating circumstances, to a good movie house or a concert. This creates and maintains a strong bond of solidarity among all Negroes. . . ."

Here, in a nutshell, we had the main problems underlying the three questions I wanted to answer.

### AN OPPRESSED NATIONALITY?

Up to the end of World War I and even afterwards struggles for national autonomy or independence were one of the main features of the domestic and foreign policies of European countries such as Austria-Hungary, Czarist Russia, Germany in regard to the Poles in the East (and the Alsatians in the West), Italy, Rumania. Discrimination and the fight for emancipation of a particular group seems to many Europeans synonymous with a drive for national self-government.

When the Negro newspaperman spoke about the solidarity which binds together all Negroes because

all are discriminated against, the question arose whether it made their emancipation drive similar to aspirations for national independence. What all the European nationality groups wanted was their own national culture, their own schools with their respective languages, their political autonomy with authorities using the national language exclusively, and eventually complete independence. The American Negro wants just the contrary: to be a full-fledged citizen within the social fabric of the United States. The fight against school segregation — now in a decisive stage — is a fight for integration, not separation.

During a lunch at the "Hungry Club" in Atlanta, an interracial discussion group, I met Negro lawyers, realtors, insurance brokers, bankers. They proudly referred to their business successes and the growing financial strength of the Negro commuity as a whole. But they were equally proud of the memberships of the Negro banks in the Federal Reserve System, of their ability to loan money to "white" banks and of the good credit rating of Negro consumers as compared with the rest of the community.

An outstanding Negro lawyer in New Orleans, uncompromising in his attitude on full citizenship for the humblest Negro, pointed out to me with considerable pride that in court he received the same treatment as any other lawyer, and showed me a newspaper profile giving him credit not only for his valiance in standing up for the Negro, but also for the skill with which he practiced law and became a well-to-do man. Another Negro lawyer in Knoxville, just as zealous in the pursuit of equal rights for his race, was as proud as his colleague in New Orleans of his standing in the community and as a lawyer.

The American Negro puts more emphasis on what he has achieved than on his resentment over what is still denied to him. He wants to be a full-fledged member of the whole community. For the Negro is an American first and a Negro second.

In Europe the opposite held. The Czech, under the leadership of Thomas G. Masaryk the symbol of the strive for national independence, was a Czech first and an Austrian—never. The direction in which the oppressed nationalities of Europe moved, was centrifugal, for separation and independence. The Negro drive is centripetal. The experience with independence movements which Europeans have had, may enable them to understand some features of the Negro problem, but not its main point—the desire, more and more pressing, not to be different from, but completely identified with the rest of the country.

### ARE THE NEGROES A CLASS?

The Negro was exploited as a slave before the Civil War. Later, he was kept — as the ugly word suggests — "in his place"; namely at the bottom of the social ladder. This, to a great extent, still is true today. The dearth of educational facilities prevents a high percentage of Negro youth from obtaining higher skill. This thwarts individual advancement for many. They are stuck with menial jobs. Is racial discrimination identical with class exploitation as experienced in Europe's social history, and

conversely, is the Negro fight for economic and cultural emancipation identical with the class struggle?

Trade union successes in the drive for higher standards for white and colored workers have been the most important single factor in the economic emancipation of the Negro. At the same time, it has made a decisive contribution to the tremendous cultural progress of the Negro over the past ten years. On my visits to Negro colleges such as Texas Southern University, in Houston, Dillard and Xavier universities in New Orleans, Tuskegee Institute in the State of Alabama, Atlanta University and Moorehouse College at Atlanta, I realized how much the economic gains of the Negro enabled a growing percentage of Negroes to obtain higher education. A majority of the students is now able to pay full tuition.

In the light of this, it could appear as if unionization and the economic upsurge of the Nergo were the total solution to the race problem. I discussed this with numerous trade unionists (AFL and CIO). I also talked about it with spiritual leaders such as Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio or the Reverend L. J. Twomey, director of the Institute of Industrial Relations at Loyola University at New Orleans. My typical questions at each of these interviews was: What is more important in solving the Negro problem, economic emancipation through unionization or a different moral attitude towards the Negroes? The most precise answer was: these two aspects are just two sides of the same coin.

Religious leaders did not at all underestimate the importance of material improvements for any progress of the Negro. They equally emphasized all propitous influence of unionization of white and colored workers on developing human solidarity. Vice versa, any trade unionist regardless of religious affiliations, stressed the moral and religious aspects of Negro emancipation and expanding unionization. The initial push to overcome inveterate prejudices hampering unionization had to come from religious organizations. As a matter of fact, all religious communities have now taken the initiative in branding racial segregation and discrimination as contrary to the teaching that all men were created in the image of God. And many religious leaders in the South have praised the Supreme Court's decision also for the reason that it will help members of their respective churches to understand that if segregation is against the Constitution, it must be even more at odds with Divine Law.

This interrelation between religion and unionization on one hand, material standards and moral behavior on the other hand, makes the emancipation of the Negro look considerably different from the class struggle of the European labor movement. It is always striking for Europeans to realize how economic and moral aspects are interlocked in America. In Europe labor organizations have to be on their own and churches are, as a rule, more aloof from social and economic realities than they are in the United States.

They are also other reasons why the Negroes cannot be termed a class and their drive is not conducted in

the way of a class struggle. In Europe the call to the social battle was issued to a homogeneous working class and comprised the whole class from the very beginning. In the United States solidarity between the white and the colored workers is of rather recent date and in several branches of the economy and many areas of the country not fully achieved yet. In the older days it happened all too often that white persons belonging to the same bracket as the equally exploited Negro participated actively in holding him down, even by violence. This certainly was not class solidarity nor do Negroes themselves think of their own group as of a homogenous proletariat. They have penetrated into other social groups with different economic goals than those of the labor movement.

The Negroes are no more a class than a nationality.

#### SIMILARITIES WITH JEWISH PERSECUTION

During a lecture in Hamburg, in the spring of 1953, a man asked me in a high-pitched voice: "Why were the Americans against Hitler? They, too, persecute minority races." I answered that there was no similarity between the oppression of the Jews and the bias against the Negro because the latter was dying down despite everything die-hards may do, whereas Hitler's persecution of the Jews and others increased systematically until it reached the climax of extermination.

Still, when I was in the South, I could not prevent my psychological associations from turning to memories of Hitler-occupied Austria. While waiting for a bus in front of Dillard University, I talked to a Negro student; I felt ashamed when the bus approached and the student tactfully withdrew. He obviously did not want to embarras me by having to sit in a different section of the bus. Whenever I tried to go to a Negro building, I experienced the same difficulty: the taxi driver would be very reluctant to take me to a colored place. On the way back there was the same trouble when I called a "colored" taxi which would not take me at all. When I went to Atlanta University, I had a hard time to convince first a bus—and then a taxi driver that there was such a place — a large campus with more than two thousand students — in their native city. I could not help thinking of Nazi oppression, wrong as this automatic association might have been from a rational point of view.

When I told Dr. Rufus Clement, president of Atlanta University, about this little incident, he took it with complete calm as a minor occurrence, possibly caused by the fact that due to segregation in education that particular driver may have never been called upon to drive to Atlanta University. Dr. Clement, far from being inclined to condone or belittle segregation and discrimination, stressed the speedy and important cultural progress the Negro has made over the past score of years. In 1934 there were one hundred Negro Ph.D.'s in the country. Now there are more than one thousand in practically every field of human knowledge. And the movement is gaining momentum.

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As much as irrational fears and the very rational calculations of cer-

tain politicians may be common to any race persecution all over the world, background and trend of discrimination against the Negro are different from similar phenomena in other countries. Even "white supremacy" leaders in Georgia or Mississippi are now willing to make budgetary sacrifices to improve the lot of the Negro if only to make him stay out of the white community. Nothing like this took place in the racial agitation of the Nazis. They were increasingly aggressive whereas the advocates of discrimination in America are definitely on the defensive.

Nobody to whom I spoke in the South was completely pessimistic as to the future of race relations. Even those who were deeply disatisfied with the state of affairs as, for instance, the Negro leaders in Birmingham, admitted that the personal respect for the Negro had greatly increased in recent years. In general, the Negro community has never been as optimistic before. This is chiefly due to one reason which constitutes the main difference from all comparable developments in Europe: the Law is now on the side of the Negro. This is the case after the Supreme Court decisions outlawing "white primaries," the non-admission of Negro students to tax-supported universities and, finally, school segragation.

Neither the oppressed nationalities nor exploited classes nor the Nazi-persecuted peoples in Europe were able to claim the Law as their support. This difference struck me as the most important one. What Dr. B. Mays of Moorehouse College told me in a brief interview stuck in my mind: Clearly, he said, the Supreme Court decision will be carried out. For if it were not, a greater issue would be involved — our whole form of government.

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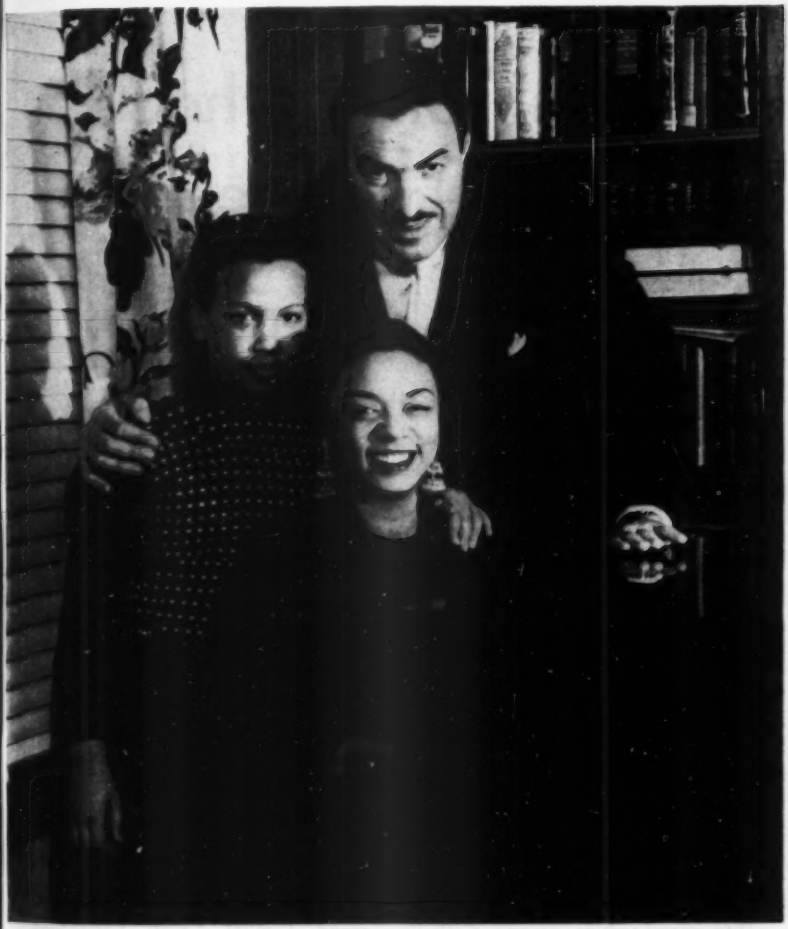
"As regards color prejudice there is a great difference between Southern and Northern Europeans. Southern Europeans may be abominably cruel to Negroes when it seems to their interest to be so, but they have no prejudice against them as such. White women have no objection to associating with Negro men, and colored blood has none of the social stigma that it has in the United States and in South Africa. The consequence of this is that in most parts of South America there are very few pure whites, and the color problem scarcely exists. . . ."

BERTRAND RUSSELL—*"New Hopes For a Changing World"* (Simon & Schuster, 1951)



*A. Hansen*

NAACP MEMBERS FOR LIFE — *Manhattan Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, his famed pianist wife, Hazel Scott, and son "Skipper," all have subscribed to life membership in the NAACP at $500 each. In addition, Representative Powell, who also is pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, has enrolled Mrs. Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., widow of his late father, as an NAACP life member.* *(See February CRISIS at page 116.)*

# Jewish Brotherhood NAACP Life Member

IN AN unprecedented act of brotherhood and full participation in the fight for Civil Rights for the Negro, the first Jewish Brotherhood in the United States recently became a Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A Life Membership plaque commemorating this fact was presented to Joseph G. Weisberg, president of the Temple Israel Brotherhood during a dinner in tribute to the NAACP on the eve of Lincoln's Birthday by Kivie Kaplan, Boston businessman, national co-chairman of the Life Membership Committee of the NAACP, and a member of the Temple Israel Brotherhood. In presenting the plaque Kaplan said, "This is a challenge to Brotherhoods all over the country to support the fight for full freedom for all."

The history-making contribution of the Temple Israel Brotherhood spearheaded the national drive for life memberships among Catholic, Jewish and Protestant organizations.

Present for the ceremonies were the Hon. Edward R. Dudley, former ambassador to Liberia, now special assistant with the national office of the NAACP; dynamic Congressman Adam Clayton Powell who spoke later that evening at special religious services at the Temple; spiritual leaders of Temple Israel, Rabbis Roland B. Gittelsohn and Leon A. Jick; Col. Larkland F. Hewitt, president of the Boston branch NAACP; Paul Simons, chairman of the Brotherhood's Gutman Foundation for the improvement of race relations; Mrs. Katherine Watson Coleman, life membership secretary assisting national co-chairman Kivie Kaplan; Mr. William Y. Bell, Jr., adult education director of the Council of Liberal Churches, Mrs. Kivie Kaplan, Mrs. Joseph Weisberg, Mrs. Leon A. Jick, Morris R. Taylor, headworker of the Robert Gould Shaw House, and Mrs. Taylor; Dr. and Mrs. James R. Lesueur, Rev. and Mrs. William H. Hester, Judge and Mrs. G. Bruce Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Lester G. Houston, Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth de P. Hughes, Rev. and Mrs. William S. Ravenell, Reverend Samuel Leroy Laviscount, Atty. and Mrs. Joseph S. Mitchell, Herbert E. Tucker, Jr., Esq., Atty. and Mrs. Edward W. Brooke and two hundred dinner guests and friends of the Brotherhood of Temple Israel.

BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION—*The Temple Israel Brotherhood paid tribute to its Gutman Foundation for the Improvement of Human Relations by becoming the first Jewish group in the USA to take out a life membership in the NAACP at a dinner and religious service on February 11 at the Commonwealth Avenue Temple in commemoration of brotherhood week. From left, Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, congressman of New York, who preached the sermon; Kivie Kaplan, life membership co-chairman of the NAACP; and the Hon. Edward R. Dudley, former American ambassador to Liberia and now in charge of NAACP fighting fund for freedom campaign; and Joseph G. Weisberb, president of the Brotherhood, who is receiving the life membership plaque from Mr. Kaplan. Negro leaders of Boston were guests for the occasion.*

*The Crisis* is indexed in the Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio, INDEX TO SELECTED PERIODICALS received in the Hallie Q. Brown Library. Use this INDEX to pick out that *Crisis* article you want to reread. It is issued quarterly at an annual rate of $6.00.

# The Future for the American Negro Has Never Been So Full of Hope . . .

## — YOUR ACTION NOW CAN BE DECISIVE!

We have come a long way since the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. Many barriers have been stricken down by court order, removed by legislation, or discarded by enlightened public opinion.

The goal of complete emancipation is now clearly in view. But the road ahead still is strewn with many obstacles. Some are already crumbling; others will have to be blasted out.

But nothing can stop us from marching up that road. Only your failure to join this forward march can slow down our pace.

The Fight for Freedom is a great crusade in which all must join if, by January 1, 1963, our children may, in all honesty recite: "one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

# LIFE EMBERSHIPS IN NAACP ARE NEED'ED AT ONCE!

ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS OF AS LITTLE AS $50 OR MORE, SENT TO EITHER YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF NAACP OR THE NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS, CAN MAKE YOU A LIFE MEMBER IN THIS VITAL CRUSADE.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KIVIE KAPLAN — DR. BENJAMIN MAYS

**CO-CHAIRMEN**

| | |
|---|---|
| Kelly Alexander | Dr. Mordecai Johnson |
| Bishop W. Y. Bell | Robert H. Johnson |
| Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune | Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin |
| Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers | Hon. Herbert H. Lehman |
| Dr. W. Montague Cobb | Dr. James J. McClendon |
| Earl B. Dickerson | A. Philip Randolph |
| Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick | Walter Reuther |
| Morton S. Grossman | Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt |
| Dr. Ralph Harlow | Ike Smalls |
| Carl Johnson | A. Maceo Smith |
| Dr. Channing H. Tobias | |

**Please send to your local branch or the NAACP, 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y.**

I wish to become a Life Member of the NAACP

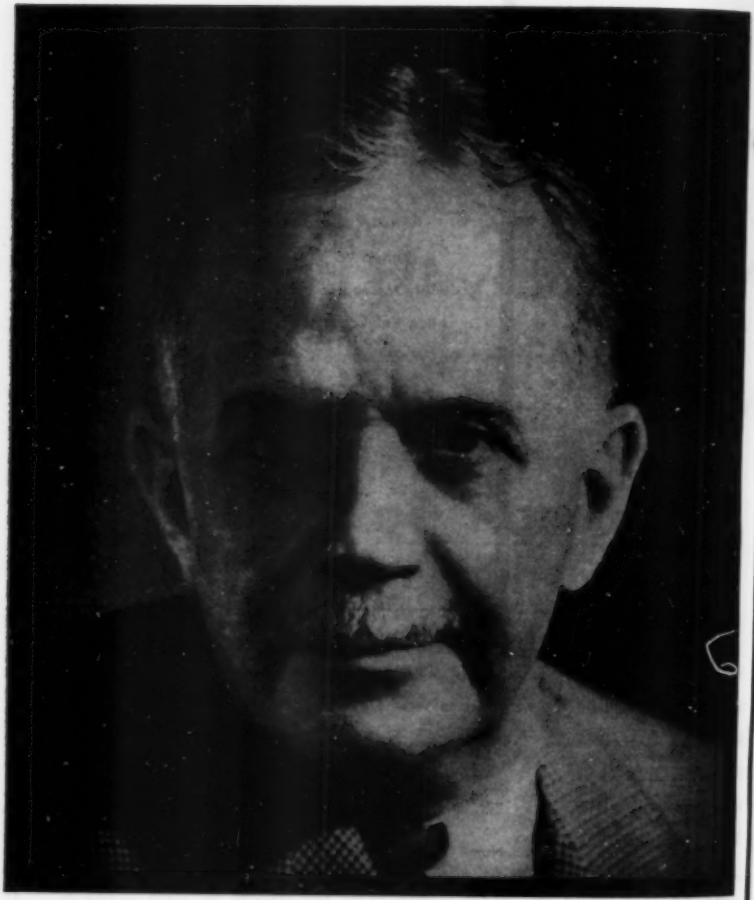
☐ I enclose check of $..... as first payment toward a life membership.

☐ I enclose check of $500 for full Life Membership.

Name .....

Address .....

City and State .....



**WALTER FRANCIS WHITE**

July 1, 1893 — March 21, 1955

# Walter White

WALTER WHITE dropped in to visit his NAACP office for two hours March 21 to "get the feel" of things before returning to active duty April 1, after a sick leave lasting since last October. Apparently fit and chipper as ever after a month in the Caribbean recuperating from a severe heart attack, he chatted with staff members, told of his trip, and dictated a few letters and memoranda. When he left in midafternoon it was with the idea that he would not wait until April 1 to get back to his desk.

Three hours later he was dead of of a sudden heart seizure at his home, 242 East 68th Street, New York City.

Thus came to an end the spectacular career of the greatest campaigner for Negro rights thus far in this century. "Campaigner" is the word, for Walter White kept everlastingly at the job of winning full citizenship rights for Negro Americans, day and night, Sunday and holiday, on vacation and at his desk, in America and abroad. His tongue was never silent, his pen never inactive.

From his first day as an NAACP officer, February 1, 1918, until his last day, March 21, 1955, he preached and worked for equality. After he finished Atlanta University, he worked in the office of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company and began his crusading with the Atlanta branch of the NAACP where his flair for fighting caught the attention of James Weldon Johnson, then secretary of the NAACP. Young White was brought to New York as assistant secretary where for the next 13 years he did such a job that in 1931 he was elected executive secretary to succeed Mr. Johnson.

He became known throughout the nation and the world for his fight to stamp out the crime of lynching, since he personally investigated more than 40 lynchings and 8 race riots. Before he became so famous and his face so familiar, Walter White visited the scenes of lynchings and riots, mingled with the white population, stayed at "white" hotels and picked up information that ordinarily would never have been revealed to colored people. Once, in Arkansas, he was sworn in as a deputy sheriff and told he was now free to "shoot Negroes" legally. His lobbying activities for the enactment of federal anti-lynching legislation by the Congress were a prime factor in sharply reducing and finally wiping out the hideous crime. He made lynching a political as well as moral issue and around the emotional dynamite of mob violence he stimulated greatly increased political action by Negro voters, helping thus to bring them more quickly to a place of significance and importance in the national political arena.

### FLAIR FOR DRAMATIC

He had a flair for the dramatic and a feeling of what was exploitable for the cause. In 1946, after a riot in Columbia, Tennessee, and the lynch-murder of two couples in or near Monroe, Georgia, Walter White

felt that a different kind of action on the very highest level of government was necessary. He got together a small group of distinguished citizens and secured an appointment with President Truman. From that conference emerged the President's Committee on Civil Rights. Here was demonstrated perfectly one of Walter White's "combination" talents: using the outrage of decent men over the shocking crime of mob violence to stimulate the creation of a commission to study the whole area of civil rights and to recommend how to bring America's practice more nearly in line with her high profession.

The report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights late in 1947 resulted in the legislative package of bills in the Congress known as the civil rights program. This produced the split-off of four states in the 1948 Democratic convention, the daring adoption thereafter of a "tough" civil rights plank in the Democratic platform, the immediate post-convention action of Mr. Truman ordering equality of opportunity in the armed services, and, finally the surprise re-election of Mr. Truman over Governor Dewey, with the Negro vote in Ohio, Illinois, and California having key significance in the result.

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER 8802

Working with A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (AFL), Mr. White helped to secure from President Roosevelt, in June 1941, the now-famous Executive Order 8802, creating the wartime Fair Employment Practices Commission. During World War II he went to the European and Pacific Theatres of War as a correspondent for the New York *Post* and got a first hand view of Negro service men and their problems throughout the world. He made a trip around the world in 1949 as a member of the "Round the World Town Meeting of the Air," visiting Europe, Israel, Egypt, India, and Japan. He also travelled in the Caribbean on repeated occasions and while never visiting Negro Africa was in close touch with the situations there and with leading African personalities.

He was appointed to numerous committees, commissions, councils and other bodies and his many awards and honors included the Spingarn Medal for 1937, a Guggenheim Fellowship for creative writing, the Haitian Order of Merit, the Sir James Jeans Award, the Star of Ethiopia, as well as the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from Howard University. He was a delegate to the first Pan-African Congress in 1921 and served as a consultant to the United States Delegation to the United Nations, both at its formation in 1945 and at its General Assembly meeting in Paris in 1948.

His books include, *Fire in the Flint* (a novel of lynching) 1924; *Flight*, 1926; *Rope and Faggot*, a Biography of Judge Lynch, 1929; *A Rising Wind*, 1945; *A Man Called White*, an autobiography, 1948; and *How Far the Promised Land*, unfinished at the time of his death.

In addition to Mrs. White, the NAACP leader is survived by two children of an earlier marriage: Jane White, an actress, and Walter Carl White; three sisters, Mrs. Eugene and

Miss Madeline White of Atlanta, Georgia, and Mrs. Alice Glynn of Cleveland, Ohio.

### DARING AND COURAGE

Arthur B. Spingarn, president of the NAACP and a longtime friend of Mr. White, made the following statement:

"We of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People mourn with a sense of deepest loss, the sudden passing of our beloved friend and leader, Walter White, under whose guidance the Association was developed from a small society into its present position as the nation's largest civil rights organization. His daring and courage in exposing lynchings in his early years with the Association, beginning in 1918, contributed greatly to the disappearance of that frightful crime and national disgrace. He was the leader in efforts to secure enactment of a federal anti-lynching law and other civil rights legislation. Guided in its course by his leadership, the NAACP won for Negroes of the nation the recognition which established for all time their birthright and dignity as American citizens."

# Walter White Funeral

THE "true story of Walter White's services is found written in the hearts of those whom he helped to liberate from the bondage of second-class citizenship," Dr. Channing H. Tobias, chairman of the board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said on March 24 at the funeral of the NAACP leader.

Officiating at the service held at St. Martin's Protestant Episcopal Church in Harlem was the rector, Dr. John Johnson. The Rt. Rev. Horace W. B. Donegan, Bishop of New York, read the prayer and blessing, with other members of the clergy assisting. Loud speakers carried the service to an overflow crowd estimated at 5,000 by the police.

Led by Arthur B. Spingarn, veteran NAACP president, officers, board and staff members served as honorary pallbearers. Distinguished guests who came to pay a last tribute to Mr. White included Gov. Averell Harriman of New York, New York State Attorney General Jacob Javits, well-known attorneys like Austin T. Walden of Atlanta, W. Robert Ming of Chicago, James Nabrit of Washington, D. C. and John Bolt Culbertson of Greenville, N. C.; labor leaders like James B. Carey, George L-P Weaver and Edward Welch, Congress of Industrial Organizations; Jacob Potofsky, president, Amalgamated Clothing Workers. CIO; William Oliver, United Automobile Workers, CIO; Boyd Wilson and James Jones, United Steelworkers,

CIO and Walter Kirschenbaum, Jewish Labor Committee; United States government officials, Frank S. Horne and Campbell Johnson; Paul Robeson, singer; John Gunther and Marc Connelly, authors; Mrs. Helen Reid and her son, Whitelaw, publishers of the New York *Herald Tribune;* Mrs. Anne Hedgeman, assistant to the Mayor of New York; Mrs. Ralph Bunche, Miss Stella Karn, Mrs. Louis T. Wright and her daughters, Drs. Barbara and Jane Wright; Richard deRochemont, film producer; representatives of various organizations and many other individuals.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MEETINGS

In his brief eulogy, Dr Tobias recalled instances in which Mr. White had served as spokesman for delegations in conferences with Presidents Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower. These conferences, he said, had been fruitful in that they opened the way to expanded job opportunities for Negros, to the elimination of segregation in the armed services, and to the curtailment of racial discrimination in Washington. They also served to help "move the conscience of America into aggressive action against the double standard of citizenship based on race."

These achievements in "top level conferences" are important, Dr. Tobias asserted, "because they illustrate the method of the NAACP in dealing with controversial issues growing out of race discrimination. It is a method that blinks no facts and engages in no double talk. But it is also a method that does not make use of rabble-rousing as a technique. . . . It is a method that looks forward to the completion of Lincoln's work of Emancipation and the realization of his dream of freedom for all in the true American way."

#### HELPED DISADVANTAGED

People all over the world whose lives have been enriched by Mr. White's work are "looking this way and wanting to be a part of this tribute," the NAACP spokesman said. Among these he cited "sharecroppers of the Deep South who are no longer voteless; dining car waiters and Pullman porters who are now privileged to serve their own people as they do other people without discrimination; public school teachers whose salaries are no longer determined by the color of their skin; servicemen in every department of our defense who have been liberated from jim crowism; workers of all kinds who now enjoy union protection; children who have been lifted to a plane of self-respect by the Supreme Court decision in the school cases; and thousands of white people who have been liberated from the blighting evil of race prejudice."

And beyond our shores, he said, "the leaders of millions of the darker peoples of the world like Nehru of India, Matthews of South Africa, Nkrumah of the Gold Coast, Azikiwe of Nigeria, Tubman of Liberia, Haile Selassie of Ethiopia; Manley of Jamaica; Magloire of Haiti and others now join us in this tribute."

#### CLOSE RANKS!

Walter White's admonition, Dr. Tobias concluded, would be: "Board members, staff, constituency and friends of the NAACP close ranks

and go courageously ahead to the accomplishment of the unfinished task with assurance of ever growing support from those who cherish the ideals for which we stand."

Following the funeral service, the body was removed to Ferncliff Crematorium for cremation.

#### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Officers and board members present in addition to Dr. Channing H. Tobias and Arthur B. Spingarn included Mrs. Lillian A. Alexander, Dr. Algernon D. Black, Walter Carrington, Dr. Allen Knight Chalmers, Dr. Nathan K. Christopher, Norman Cousins, Hon. Hubert T. Delany, Mrs. Grace B. Fenderson, Dr. George D. Flemmings, Dr. Buell G. Gallagher, Lewis S. Gannett, Dr. Harry J. Greene, Hon. William H. Hastie, Oscar Hammerstein II, Dr. John Hayes Holmes, Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, Alfred Baker Lewis, Z. Alexander Looby, Eugene M. Martin, Dr. James J. McClendon, Miss L. Pearl Mitchell, Mrs. J. E. Spingarn, Dr. James M. Tinsley, Mrs. Jessie M. Vann, Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Andrew D. Weinberger, Samuel A. Williams and Dr. Ulysses S. Wiggins.

#### WALTER WHITE MOURNED

Telegrams from Americans in all walks of life, from the President of the United States to university students and the Redcaps at Pennsylvania Station, New York City, mourned the passing of Walter White.

A message from President Eisenhower to Mrs. Walter White declared:

"In the death of your husband Walter White there has passed from the contemporary scene a vigorous champion of justice and equality for all our citizens. His devoted service to his race over a period of forty years was tireless and effective. Permit me to express to you my personal sympathies in your loss."

A telegram from former President Harry S. Truman said: "I am deeply sorry to hear of the untimely death of Walter White. Please express my sincere sympathy to his family."

President Magloire of Haiti declared in a cabled message: "The people of Haiti mourn the passing of this great friend of our country."

Langston Hughes, author: ". . . America has lost a great man. . . ."

Judge and Mrs. Irvin Mollison: ". . . The country has lost a great public servant. For a quarter of a century he was in the forefront of the struggle for equality for all Americans. . . ."

J. J. Singh, president, India League of America: ". . . So long as there is discrimination and inequality among men in any part of the world the name of Walter White will be remembered with admiration and reverence. . . ."

Messages of condolences on the passing of Mr. White were received from Norman Manley, the prime minister of Jamaica; Dr. Ralph Bunche, under secretary of the United Nations; officers and members of the NAACP board of directors; clergymen; human rights organizations; labor unions; government officials; legislators; hundreds of NAACP branches throughout the nation; and others.

#### GOVERNOR AND MAYOR

Governor Averell Harriman de-

clared in a telegram that Mr. White "rendered invaluable service to our country at home and abroad. His life has been an inspiration to all of us."

"In behalf of the citizens of New York," said a message from Mayor Robert Wagner to Mrs. Walter White, "I extend to you and the family of Walter White our deepest sympathy. Our nation, state and community have lost one of our greatest leaders whose entire life was dedicated to securing equality for all mankind. . . . His whole life epitomized his belief in God's precept, 'Love thy Neighbor.' "

Hulan E. Jack, president of the Borough of Manhattan, New York City, told Mrs. White in a telegram that "your late husband left behind an invaluable and proud record of achievement which brought the hearts and minds of people closer together in the struggle for recognition that all of us are equal in the sight of God. The nation has lost a great leader and his passing will always remain as a monumental heritage for all people to honor and revere."

A message from James P. Mitchell, U.S. Secretary of Labor, to Mrs. White, said "Mr. White made a great contribution toward the promotion of brotherhood and the elimination of discrimination in our country. You may be proud of his contribution to the strengthening of our democracy."

Dr. Ralph Bunche, under Secretary of the United Nations, declared in a telegram: "I have never known a man more dedicated to service of his fellowmen, more inspired by and more ceaselessly devoted to a cause. The American Negro, the American society as a whole, and American democracy, will be forever indebted to him, a stalwart champion of democracy, of human rights and dignity, an American in the proudest and richest tradition of our country. . . ."

### *Letter to Editor*

To the Editor of *The Crisis*:

We are preparing a study on communism and the churches sponsored by the Fund for the Republic, Inc. Persons with information on either of the following topics are invited to communicate with us at 500 West 122 St., New York 27, N. Y. (1) Documented evidence of actual communist attempts to infiltrate the churches or make use of clergymen — Protestant or Catholic. (2) Examples of false and irresponsible charges of communist influence on religion in America.

New York City
February 28, 1955

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# Investors in Freedom

## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BRANCHES TOWARDS "FIGHTING FUND FOR FREEDOM" FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1955

(Included also are January contributions not reported in previous issue of *The Crisis*)

**ARKANSAS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Jackson County (Newport) | $ 50.00 |

**CONNECTICUT**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ridgefield | 329.96 |

**FLORIDA**

| | |
|---|---|
| Seminole County (Sanford) | 6.00 |
| Tallahassee | 1.50 |

**ILLINOIS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Evanston | 16.00 |
| Madison | 39.60 |
| Springfield | 32.00 |

**KENTUCKY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Benham | 27.50 |

**LOUISIANA**

| | |
|---|---|
| Edgard | 100.00 |

**MARYLAND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Anne Arundel County (Annapolis) | 50.00 |

**MICHIGAN**

| | |
|---|---|
| Detroit | 10.00 |

**MISSISSIPPI**

| | |
|---|---|
| Hattiesburg | 75.00 |

**NEW JERSEY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Metuchen | 50.00 |

**NEW YORK**

| | |
|---|---|
| Flushing | 18.00 |
| Peekskill | 20.00 |
| Ulster County (Kingston) | 100.00 |

**NORTH CAROLINA**

| | |
|---|---|
| Burke County (Morganton) | 13.00 |

**OHIO**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mansfield | 93.25 |
| Middletown | 40.00 |

**OKLAHOMA**

| | |
|---|---|
| Lawton | 12.00 |

**PENNSYLVANIA**

| | |
|---|---|
| Allentown | 50.00 |

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bennettsville (Marlboro County) | 50.00 |

**TEXAS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Galveston | 30.00 |
| Harrison County (Marshall) | 10.00 |
| Henderson County (LaRue) | 30.00 |

**VIRGINIA**

| | |
|---|---|
| Culpeper County (Culpeper) | 25.00 |
| Salem | 81.75 |

**WEST VIRGINIA**

| | |
|---|---|
| Huntington | 129.72 |
| Montgomery | 10.00 |

*Samuel Cooper*

**EDDIE KAPLAN** *of Boston, Massachusetts, receives his NAACP life membership plaque from his father, Kivie Kaplan. Eddie is the tenth Kaplan to become a life member in the NAACP. Eddie was 13 years old on March 4, 1955, and his Bar Mitzvah was on March 5, 1955, which was the occasion of this presentation by his father and mother. Eddie is also a Star Scout, the Senior Patrol Leader in his Patrol, and last year he was awarded the "Best Scout Award" for the year 1954. He is in Troop 25 of the Norumbega Council, and the award was made on unanimous vote of all the boys in the troop.*

# Life Members

**Hereunder are set the names of those who have become Life Members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from May 1, 1954 to January 31, 1955, as well as those who have become "subscribers" by making initial payments on their Life Memberships.**

*Because these Americans believe that the NAACP has done much to bring the blessings of our democracy to Negroes, and because they believe that their support is necessary to achieve the NAACP goal of full emancipation by January 1, 1963, the Centennial of Lincoln's historic Proclamation, they have taken out Life Memberships in the Association. They are helping to make democracy live.*

**PAID-IN-FULL**

American Teachers' Association
Dr. Will Taylor, Sr., Monroe, La.
Louis Schneider, Newark, N. J.
Dr. Harold J. Berman, Newton Centre, Mass.
Griffith M. Gunther, New York
Madison H. Carter, Ulrichsville, Ohio
The Rev. Mary G. Evans, Chicago, Ill.
Presley S. Winfield, Berkeley, Calif.
Bishop Luther Stewart, Hopkinsville, Ky.
Father Archibald V. McLees, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Ahmad C. El., Columbus, Ohio
New York chapter of the Girl Friends, Inc.
Mutual Chemical Company, New York
Grand Lodge, Prince Hall Masons, Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Lucinda B. Robey, Birmingham, Ala.
Hyman M. Cohen, Boston, Mass.
Chicago branch, National Assiance of Postal Employees
Thomas Johnson, Portland, Ore.
Morton Grossman, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
The Rev. Kenneth A. Bowen, Buffalo, N. Y.
Mrs. Sylvia Grossman, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
The Jess E. Taylor family, Alexandria, Va.
Dr. Ulysses Grant Dailey, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Charles S. Ware, Woodbury Heights, N. J.
Theodore W. Hodges, Everett, Mass.
A. W. Dent, New Orleans, La.
Mrs. Margaret G. Lee, Riverside, Calif.
Bishop J. A. Hamlett, Kansas City, Kans.

Bishop Felix L. Lewis, Bakersfield, Calif.
Bishop W. Y. Bell, South Boston, Va.
The Rev. I. H. Henderson, Kansas City, Kans.
Louis E. Martin, Chicago, Ill.
Dr. J. F. Evans, Los Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. Olivia Watkins Shaw, Kansas City, Mo.
Albert Maddox, Los Angeles, Calif.
Dr. Albert I. Green, Waban, Mass.
Richard Perrin Graves, Lafayette, Calif.
Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
New York *Amsterdam News* Welfare Fund
Bravell M. Nesbitt, Elizabeth, N. J.
The Rev. Samuel N. McCain, Jr., Hawaii
Mrs. Wilbur Halyard, Milwaukee, Wis.
Sadruddin Aga Kahn
William Sherrill, New York
George A. Beavers, Los Angeles
Kelly Alexander, Charlotte, N. C.
Robert L. Gibson, Roanoke, Va.
Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, Louisville, Ky.
Charles G. Gomillion, Tuskegee, Ala.
New Jersey State Medical Association
Links, Inc.—$26,850 in life memberships, presented at Links' sixth annual assembly in Bluefield, W. Va.
Richard Rodgers, New York
Dr. Arthur Williams, White Plains, N. Y. (posthumously)
New Jersey chapter of the Girl Friends, Jersey City, N. J.

**SUBSCRIBERS**

South Hoover Hospital, Los Angeles, Calif.
James Lewis, Washington, D. C.
Fred L. Goldman, Kansas City, Mo.
The Rev. John W. Williams, Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Juanita Jewel Craft, Dallas, Tex.
Mrs. Dick Foster, Dallas, Tex.
Barksdale Brown, Los Angeles, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hill, Los Angeles, Calif.
Dr. George Paine, Boston, Mass.
Epsilon Tau Lambda chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Hempstead, Texas
The Rev. O. D. Dempsey, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Dr. G. W. Hawkins, Miami, Fla.
Dr. Beverely V. Baranco, Jr., Baton Rouge, La.
George C. Gordon, Springfield, Mass.
Bondol Laboratories, Madison, Ark.
Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina
General State Baptist Association of Florida, Ind., Miami, Fla.
Dr. R. Stewart Randall, Washington, D. C.
Miss Golda Krolik, Detroit, Mich.
James Harvey, Jersey City, N. J.
Mississippi Dental Society
Pharmaceutical Association of Mississippi
Sergeant Joseph F. Laine, Louisville, Ky.
H. B. Law, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Poppy Cannon White New York
Miss Olivia Stanford, New York
Clio Art Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Dr. Joseph A. Berry, Tuskegee, Ala.
Dr. Myra Logan, New York
Mrs. Rosemarie Gaines, New York
Bower Bridge Club, Inc., New York
George G. Smith, Los Angeles, Calif.
W. L. Stevens, Los Angeles
P. J. Taylor, Los Angeles

Paul R. Williams, Los Angeles
Lowell C. Moore, Los Angeles
The Rev. Arthur A. Peters, Los Angeles
The Rev. E. A. Anderson, Los Angeles
Alfred Bloomingdale, Los Angeles
Bernard L. Cohen, Brookline, Mass.
John T. Lane, Boston, Mass.
A. M. Holman, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Richard J. Walsh, Perkasie, Pa.
Mrs. Flo Thornley, New York
Dr. Malvin Proctor, New York
Dr. Leon B. Hainey, New York
Miss Bobbie Branche, New York
North Carolina State Conference of NAACP Branches
Mrs. Charles G. Gomillion, Tuskegee, Ala.
Tuskegee, Ala., Civil Association
Iota Omega of Omega Psi Phi, Tuskegee, Ala.
James A. Michener, Doyleston, Pa.
Junior Leaguers, Inc., Newark, N. J.
Richard L. Simon, New York
Jack and Jill (national parents' association)
R. C. Scott, Richmond, Va.
Miss Pauline Gordon, Johnstown, Pa.
Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. Pittsburgh, Pa.
Florida State Federation of Colored Womens' Clubs
Benevolent Fund District, Grand Lodge Number Seven, Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Raleigh, N. C.
Edward Cross, Orange, N. J.
Professor S. Ralph Harlow, Oak Bluffs, Mass.
Myron E. Halpern, Boston, Mass.
Dr. George Cannon, New York
Edward R. Murrow, New York
Mrs. Mary Tobias Messner, New York
Franklin Dandridge, Anchorage, Alaska
Dr. J. Everard Carey, New York
Dr. Richard M. Carey, New York
Dr. Arthur C. Logan, New York
Dr. William A. Withers, New York
Alfred Hall, Edgartown, Mass.
Morris S. Hall, Edgartown, Mass.
The Brickman family, Vineyard Haven, Mass.
Henry Cronig, Vineyard Haven, Mass.
Dr. Joseph Frisch, Vineyard Haven, Mass.
Dr. David Rappaport, Oak Bluffs, Mass.
Louis P. Smith, Brookline, Mass.
M. C. Martin, Danville, Va.
Dr. George C. Branche, Tuskegee, Ala.
Dr. Ulysses G. Dailey, Chicago, Ill.
Dr. D. J. Sammons, Clinton, N. C.
Dr. L. P. Armstrong, Rocky Mount, N. C.
Dr. Joseph W. Parker, Rocky Mount, N. C.
Dr. A. V. Blunt, Greensboro, N. C.
Dr. G. K. Butterfield, Wison, N. C.
C. L. Darden, Wilson, N. C.
Third Union Baptist Church, King William, Va.
Dr. John Eubanks, East St. Louis, Ill.
Dr. Edgar F. Woodson, East St. Louis, Ill.
Dr. Wallace A. Fingal, East St. Louis, Ill.
Dr. A. M. Jackson, East St. Louis, Ill.
Billy Jones, East St. Louis, Ill.
Marshall T. Dobson, East St. Louis, Ill.
Dr. Herbert Erwin, St. Louis, Mo.
Dr. J. S. Whittico, St. Louis, Mo.
Dr. Earle Williams, Lovejoy, Ill.
A. D. Shores, Birmingham, Ala.

First Aid Auxiliary, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Wendell, N. C.
Dr. B. B. Martin, Memphis, Tenn.
Mrs. William Horowitz, New Haven, Conn.
Mrs. Hattie A. Van Buren, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Herman Wolf, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. John D. Gordan, New York
Belle Tan Social and Civic Club, New Haven, Conn.
Dr. T. E. Dixon, Temple, Tex.
Dr. A. T. Braithwaite, Waco, Texas
Theodore L. Miller, New Orleans, La.
Charles P. Lucas, Cleveland
The Rev. Wade H. McKinney, Cleveland
Dr. Nathan K. Christopher, Cleveland
Irving Franklin, Jr., Cleveland
Mrs. Mary Hilton, Cleveland
Albert Liggins, Cleveland
Harvey Norton, Cleveland
Robery Riffe, Cleveland
Shiloh Baptist Church, Cleveland
John Waller, Cleveland
J. W. Wills, Cleveland
John W. Carmack, Cleveland
Crayton's Southern Sausage Company, Cleveland
Mrs. Lina Derritt, Cleveland
The Rev. William Downs, Cleveland
Robert Ellis, Cleveland
Dr. Armen G. Evans, Cleveland
Mrs. Lillie Gorman, Cleveland
John W. Kellogg, Cleveland
Miss Ada Lieffingwell, Cleveland
Dr. James Levy, Cleveland
Emett Meade, Cleveland
Lawrence O. Payne, Cleveland
Dr. W. F. Richie, Cleveland
Thomas J. Robinson, Cleveland
Mrs. Beulah Slaughter, Cleveland
Jesse Smith, Cleveland
Dr. Bertrand C. Styles, Cleveland
Page M. Sumpter, Cleveland
William K. Willis, Cleveland
Alonzo Wright, Cleveland
David A. Wynne, Cleveland
The Hon Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Mount Vernon, N. Y.
Hazel Scott Powell, Mount Vernon, N. Y.
Adam Clayton Powell, III, Mount Vernon, N. Y.
Mrs. Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., New York
Earl B. Dickerson, Chicago
Mrs. Kathryn Kennedy Dickerson, Chicago
Miss Diane Dickerson, Chicago
Gaston Crawford, Houston, Texas
Mrs. Lydia E. Crawford, Houston, Texas
Mrs. Bette Smith-Marshall, Philadelphia, Pa.
Clarence Mitchell, Baltimore
Russell Leavill, Greenwich, Conn.
M. W. H. Grand Lodge, Inc., Baltimore
Mrs. Ruth H. Morgan, Wendell, N. C.
Mrs. Aloncita J. Flood, New York
Tau Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha
The Rev. James H. Robinson, New York
Robert Flanagan, Seattle, Wash.
J. Kenneth Lee, Greensboro, N. C.
Perry J. Brown, Greensboro, N. C.
Willard R. Dean, Washington, D. C.
Sidney Williams, Chicago
Louis E. Ferguson, Chicago
M. G. Stein, Chicago
Elias Ostap, Chicago
William J. Aughtry, Chicago
Dr. R. L. Smith, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Dr. C. Mason Quick, Fayetteville, N. C.
Mrs. Ocia P. Cowart, Gary, Ind.

Edwin B. Coltin, Ayer, Mass.
Anna M. Duncan Club, Montgomery, Ala.
Magic City Medical Society, Roanoke, Va.
Mrs. Julia L. Taylor, Tucson, Ariz.
Elwood S. McKenney, West Newton, Mass.
David Gopen, Boston, Mass.
Frank W. Morris, Roxbury, Mass.
Dr. Edward Dalton, New York
Beta Xi Omega chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Tuskegee, Ala.
Zeta Sigma chapter, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Tuskegee, Ala.
Alpha Sigma chapter, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, New York
Upsilon Sigma chapter, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Baton Rouge, La.
Lionel O. Lindsay, Roxbury, Mass.
Irving Usen, Boston, Mass.
Dr. E. V. Miller, Columbus, Ga.
Joseph Greenbaum, Newton Center, Mass.
Mrs. Cecilia Cabaniss Saunders, New York
Union Baptist Church, Kampsville, Va.
Citizens Christmas Cheer Committee, Inc., New York
Creed Taylor, Tucson, Ariz.
Dentists' Wives, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. L. L. Graham, Burlington, N. C.
Judge William K. Thomas, Chagrin Falls, Ohio
Phyllis Wheatley Club, Berkeley, Calif.

CAPTAINS OF THE WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, *branch celebrate the success of the branch membership drive. From left, seated, Edith Delaney, Jessica McMillian, Mrs. Gertrude Young, Mrs. Anne Henderson, Mrs. Edward Knotts, Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. R. H. Bailey, Mrs. Mollie Fleming. Standing, W. L. Jones, William Warfield, Rev. Cornelius Jackson, Rev. R. H. Bailey, Rev. John Woodward, Rev. Maurice Moyer, and Edward Knotts.*

**RECEIVING** *the $6,500 check from Grand Master Dobbs is Thurgood Marshall (right), NAACP special counsel. Looking on are Elwood Chisholm of the NAACP legal research department and Robert Carter, Mr. Marshall's assistant.* BOTTOM: *Charles Worley (left) of Columbus, Ohio, makes initial payment on his life membership to Mrs. Roberta Basnett while J. W. Williams looks on.*

# Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

## YOUTH CONFERENCE

*Ask For Federal Legislation*: Revision of Senate rules to prevent filibusters on civil-rights bills, passage of a federal FEPC measure, and denial of federal aid to education in states defying the Supreme Court ban on segregated schools were asked by delegates to the NAACP national youth legislative conference held in Washington, D. C., February 3-6.

Further conference resolutions on federal legislation called for repeal of the McCarren-Walter Immigration Act, immediate statehood for Hawaii and Alaska, home rule for the District of Columbia, passage of the omnibus civil rights bill in this session of Congress, and passage of anti-lynch and anti-poll tax legislation "in order to enable the expansion of the electorate."

The delegates, of high school and college age, urged increased federal, state, and local aid for housing as well as elimination of segregation in all public housing projects.

Resolutions on education include these:

That on the state level teachers' salaries be raised and that race not be a factor in determining their salaries;

That Negro vocational counsellors be employed in schools both North and South;

That minority history be taught "properly and fairly" in public schools;

That "competent Negro teachers be well integrated" into the school system;

That gerrymandering of school districts, "specifically designed to separate races" be abolished.

Another resolution denounced the National Association of Home Builders' proposed program of building segregated new housing on a 10 per cent basis for minority groups and further condemned the National Builders' Association "for providing funds for the promotion of this program."

"We not only condemn these proposed programs . . .," the resolution stated, "we shall also work to defeat and eliminate such programs."

In a special section on ending discrimination in employment, resolutions called for "an FEPC clause in every master contract entered into by management and labor," reduction of the regular work week from 40 to 30 hours because of "automation" in industry, an increase in the minimum wage to $1.25 per hour — by both federal and state legislation — and the admittance of Negroes into "television and other new fields of employment."

The youth convention was host to 690 young people from 22 states and the District of Columbia. Vice-president Richard Nixon addressed the public meeting on February 3.

## SCHOOLS

*No Aid to Jim Crow Schools*: A resolution adopted by the NAACP board of directors in February calls upon Congress to make federal aid to education "available only to such states as comply fully with the spirit and purpose of the Constitution."

The resolution cites the Supreme Court decisions of May 17, 1954, banning segregation in public education and declares that "national legislative intent must be brought into conformity with the Constitution as now finally construed."

The drive to secure federal aid for the construction of new school buildings has been given new impetus by President Eisenhower's proposal recently submitted to Congress. Previously, Senator Lister Hill (D., Ala.) had introduced a bill providing emergency federal funds for new schools. Neither measure includes a clause prohibiting the use of federal funds for segregated schools. The NAACP resolution, adopted at the board's regular monthly meeting on February 14, does not indicate a preference for either bill.

In view of the Supreme Court decision, the NAACP resolution holds that "any new federal legislation in aid of education in the states at whatever level or of whatever character should contain corrective and safeguarding" clauses prohibiting the use of such funds for the development or maintenance of segregated schools.

Not only should this prohibition be embodied in any new acts of Congress, the resolution asserts, but existing legislation which does not have such safeguards should be amended "in the present session of Congress to permit federal funds in aid of such education to flow only to such states as are in compliance with the intent and spirit of the Constitution."

The resolution cited particularly the funds handled by the Department of Agriculture in aid of agricultural experimentation and rural educational extension work. There is presently no requirement that these funds be allocated only to unsegregated institutions.

*No Segregated Schools Wanted*: The Florida NAACP has lashed out at continuing racial segregation in Florida's public schools in violation of the Supreme Court decision by calling for an end to the construction of segregated schools in the state.

In a letter sent in February to Attorney General Richard Ervin, Francisco A. Rodriguez, state legal redress chairman for the NAACP, asserted that unless the system of school construction is brought into conformity with the Supreme Court ban on segregated schools, the Florida NAACP will "seek the intervention of a higher jurisdictional body."

"It is the opinion of our legal minds that the question of a dual school system was settled as of May 17, 1954," the letter said. "Laws formerly

intended for the building of separate schools for 'Negro or white' students are no longer in effect and cannot be used to support the school building program as is now the practice."

Noting that "the officials and members of the Florida state conference of NAACP branches are aware of the serious shortage of classroom space," the letter declared that nevertheless "it is impossible for the official family of NAACP to stand idly by and watch segregation as it is perpetuated" in violation of the law of the land.

In another action at the same time to defeat the perpetuation of Florida's segregated schools, the Tampa NAACP branch sent letters and telegrams to members of the Senate labor and public welfare committee asking them to support provisions calling for compliance with the Supreme Court decision by states seeking federal aid to build schools.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

*Membership Plaques to District 65 Officers*: After hailing the imminent merger of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organization as a significant forward step, Dr. Chaiing H. Tobias, NAACP board chairman, said "it must be clearly established now that there will be no place in the merged federation for segregated locals, colored auxiliaries, lily-white clauses in union constitutions or wage differentials based upon race."

Addressing the annual Negro history week celebration of District 65 of the CIO Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, at the union's headquarters, 13 Astor Place, New York City, Dr. Tobias told the trade unionists that "the NAACP is wholeheartedly for a strong, militant, united labor movement" which the Negro worker needs "not only to secure decent conditions of work, but also to develop the trade union as a weapon in the struggle to end jim crow on the job front."

The NAACP leader presented plaques denoting life membership in the Association to three of the union's officers. The life memberships, purchased by the union at $500 each, were presented to Arthur Osman, founder of District 65 and the union's executive vice-president; David Livingston and Cleveland Robinson, president and secretary-treasuer, respectively, of District 65.

Dr. Tobias recalled the close and continuing relations the NAACP has had with the organized labor movement. He praised the recent declaration by George Meany, AFL president, that the merged labor movement would not tolerate racial or religious discrimination, and offered the full support and assistance of the NAACP to Mr. Meany's pledge to wage "an unrelenting fight against racial bigotry within the organized labor movement."

## MISCELLANEOUS

*Mississippi Project*: A deposit of $5,000 by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity in March brought to a total of $173,500 the sum deposited in the

Tri-State Bank of Memphis, Tennessee, in an effort to expand the bank's resources for making business loans to Negro farmers, businessmen, and homeowners who, because of their anti-segregation stand, have been denied credit by certain white lending institutions in Mississippi.

Meanwhile, Bishop D. Ward Nichlos of the AME church attending a session of the committee on policy and strategy of the National Council of Churches of Christ, in Chicago, succeeded in getting the committee to pass a resolution calling upon the 30 denominations in the council to "explore the advisability and the possibility of recommending the use of available reserve funds" to aid in "winning this battle against economic strangulation."

Bishop Nichols is vice-chairman of the general board of the National Council. His own demonination has already deposited $10,000 of its pension fund in the Tri-State Bank in response to an NAACP appeal for such deposits.

*Peekskill Branch Contribution*: In March the Peekskill, New York, branch contributed $1,000 to the Association's fight for freedom campaign as part of its brotherhood week program.

The fight for freedom campaign seeks to raise one million dollars a year to speed up the NAACP's civil rights work.

Speaking at a brotherhood week meeting sponsored by the Peekskill NAACP, Dr. Channing H. Tobias, chairman of the Association's board of directors, cautioned that "brotherhood is the word that stands between us and chaos."

He declared that if brotherhood is not practiced in America "we cannot escape catastrophe."

The $1,000 check was presented to Dr. Tobias by Melvin Tapley, president of the Peekskill branch.

*Life Membership Plaque Expanded*: A series of twelve new bronze panels were added to an impressive plaque at NAACP national headquarters in February to contain the names of life members of the Association.

The names of some 250 life members of the NAACP already are set in bronze under a statement commemorating their belief in the "foundation principles of the American republic."

The new panels will allow the names of those who recently have become NAACP life members to be set in bronze along with their predecessors. Space also will be provided for the names of future life members. The new panelling can accommodate approximately 1,028 names.

The Association currently is conducting a campaign for more life members, under the direction of a national life membership committee. Co-chairmen of the committee are Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga., and Kivie Kaplan, Boston businessman. A life membership in the NAACP costs $500.

*Association to Celebrate May 17*: The seventeenth of May, the day on which the United States Supreme Court handed down its historic anti-segregation decision in 1954, will be observed annually as NAACP Freedom Day by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

INITIATE $20,000 NAACP DRIVE—*Principals of the Springfield, Massachusetts, six-week campaign to raise $20,000 for the NAACP Fight For Freedom Campaign chat with Edward Dudley (far left), national campaign director, at the February 10 meeting which launched the campaign. From left, Mr. Dudley, Samuel G. Simons, chairman of Springfield fight for freedom campaign; William C. Jackson, president of the local branch; Mrs. Julie Noble, branch secretary; and O. L. K. Fraser. It was reported at the meeting that $8,500 in advance cash and pledges had already been received, including six life memberships in the NAACP at $500 each. The Springfield branch is the first local NAACP unit to undertake to raise its entire 10-year freedom quota within a short period of time.*

# What the Branches Are Doing

*Alabama:* NAACP branches in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee started a drive on March 1 for 60,000 members and $60,000.

In announcing the regional goals for 1955, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, the southeastern secretary, said:

"The increase in numbers of branches and memberships is the answer to those who say our people have lost confidence in the leadership of the NAACP. Our record of achievement for almost half a century, the number of cases we have won in the United States Supreme Court, and the lower courts, speak eloquently of the rightness of our position. . . ."

*California:* When "Gonna B" Vanderlinden joined the PALO ALTO branch in February, he or she, since it is yet to be born, became the youngest member of the Association. The entire Vanderlinden family belongs to the Association.

Segregation of Negro and Mexican-American children, and the discriminatory assignment of Negro teachers in El Centro were challenged in two suits filed in SAN DIEGO on February 7 in the United States district court by lawyers for the NAACP, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Alianza Hispano Americana.

The actions, brought simultaneously, each asks the federal court to adjudge the segregation of Negro and Mexican American children "void and unconstitutional; to compel the school authorities and "their agents and employees" to admit "all persons of Negro and Mexican descent to the full use, enjoyment and privilege of attending schools in their respective districts"; that the defendants "be permanently enjoined and restrained from excluding or in any manner whatsoever barring from the faculties of the schools, in their respective districts, competent qualified persons of Negro extraction"; that an order to show cause be issued by the district court; and for costs of suit.

The parents of 44 children of Mexican descent and the parents of 20 Negro children are named in the suits as plaintiffs. One white Anglo child is listed among the plaintiffs and prays that he be permitted to attend Douglass school, and that "Douglass school be an integrated school without discrimination or segregation because of race or descent."

Named as defendants are Guy Weakley, superintendent of the El Centro School District and the Central High School District; all trustees of the El Centro School and the Central Union High School District; Olin Cresham, superintendent of schools of Imperial county; and the five members of the Imperial county of supervisors.

Here is the background of the El Centro school segregation issue:

Segregation in El Centro schools began in 1934 with the large influx of Negroes and Mexican-Americans migrating to work on Imperial Valley farms. From that date, up to and including 1951, there was segregation from kindergarten through grade 10. Washington elementary and Douglass

schools had only Negro and Mexica-American children in their student bodies, with Douglass serving the 9th and 10th grades. Negro and Mexican American high school students of grades 11 and 12 were permitted to attend Central Union high school which serves several districts in Imperial county.

In 1951, the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union conducted a survey of the school situation and recommended to the school authorities that all high school children be permitted to attend Central Union and that segregation be abolished in the elementary and junior high schools. The integration of Negro teachers was also urged at that time.

In 1952, all segregation among high school students was abolished, but rigid segregation of children in kindergarten through grade 8 was maintained. No Negro teachers were assigned to schools other than Washington and Douglass, where to this day only Negro and Mexican-American children are in attendance.

*District of Columbia:* Mildred Bond of the national office has been assigned to the DISTRICT branch to organize workers and to help conduct the annual membership campaign. The goal is 15,000 members and will last from March 6 to April 15.

*Florida:* The executive committee of the Florida state conference has voted to pay greater attention to the voter problem in the state.

*Illinois:* The CHICAGO branch issues a detailed statement on civil rights asking for strick enforcement of the Illinois civil rights statutes.

In issuing this statement on civil rights in Illinois the NAACP called upon the public to report all cases of discrimination in places of public accommodation. All such reports will be investigated and action taken to correct the situation.

**JOSEPH GRIFFIN,** *Beaumont, Texas, mail carrier, is due special commendation for the manner in which he has applied himself to his special project of acquainting his mail-route patrons with the NAACP. He is nearing his goal of 100 members, and in addition he has enrolled his entire family.*

*Iowa:* The DES MOINES branch, with Mrs. Georgine Morris as chairman, sold $383 worth of 1954 Christmas seals.

Three branch board members, Mrs. Guy E. Greene, Mrs. Charles Kramer, and Mrs. Robert Burlingame gave a tea on February 12, in honor of Ike Smalls who was re-elected as one of the national vice-presidents. The other outstanding guest present was Mrs. Frances M. Ashley, Iowa's second life member. Mr. Smalls was Iowa's first life member. The tea was given at the Willkie

House, 900 West 17th Street. Twenty-seven board members were present. The Des Moines branch has 33 officers and members.

Archie M. Greenlee, president of the Des Moines branch, appointed 1955 committees Tuesday at the regular meeting at Crocker branch of the Y.M.C.A.

Committee chairmen are:

James B. Morris, jr., and Robert A. Wright, legal redress; Mrs. Guy E. Greene, press and publicity; Mrs. Herschel E. Hubbard, convalescent and condolence; Mrs. Mabel N. Spencer, entertainment; Mrs. Lillian Scales, education; William F. Denman, legislation; Mrs. Rose B. Johnson, Fighting Fund for Freedom, 10-year national program; the Rev. Jesse Hawkins, membership; Clifford L. Bayles, financial; Herman Wadsworth, labor and industry; and Mrs. David Kruidenier, jr., and Luther T. Glanton, jr., housing.

*New Jersey:* The JERSEY CITY branch held its installation services in January. Branch membership goal for 1955 is 3000 members.

Dr. Huerta Neals, prominent local physician, is the second branch member to take out an NAACP life membership. James Curry was the first.

*New York:* The NEW YORK CITY branch will participate with other metropolitan branches in a city-wide membership and fundraising campaign to begin May 1 and to end June 17. The branch has accepted a goal of 10,000 members. The branch has also planned an ambitious program in education, housing, labor, industry, and legislation. President Russell Crawford reports the organization of a health committee to inquire into hospital admitting practices and staff integration.

The BROOKLYN branch held a "North Carolina Bar-B-Cue" at Berry Brothers in Fulton Street, February 21-28, to raise funds for branch activities.

President Thomas Brooks of the STATEN ISLAND branch has outlined the branch program for the coming year.

On February 25 the CENTRAL LONG ISLAND branch celebrated a combined Negro history and brotherhood week program at the Copiague public school in Copiague, Long Island. The principal speakers were Clarence Mitchell of the NAACP Washington bureau and the Honorable Julius Archibald, first New York Negro state senator.

Attorney Archibold delivered a very inspiring message to Negro youth in which he emphasized the necessity for adequate preparation in a changing world. Mr. Mitchell stressed the fact that the NAACP as a non-partisan organization is obliged to stay aloof from political party ties. He also said that it would appear that the Democratic liberals, who have in the past so splendidly represented the fibre and morality of their party, are now yielding to and pussyfooting with the southern anti-FEPC bloc in the firm belief that "harmony" is all important.

There were many representatives in the audience from a variety of Long Island groups.

The last general branch meeting was addressed by Mildred Bond, national field secretary, and Gloster Current, director of branches.

The branch is currently investigating several complaints involving the vicious employment practices directed against various minority groups by certain Nassau and Suffolk county employment agencies. The branch intends to establish an employment clinic soon to review the results of these investigations and to seek adequate safeguards against these dishonest practices.

Attorney Wilfred V. Reape, Jr., president of the Central Long Island branch, was the principal speaker on January 28 at a brotherhood week program given by the Sisters of the Reform Temple, Levittown, Long Island.

*North Carolina:* The Rocky Mount-Wilson-Tarboro chapter of the Links, Inc., held its annual Christmas party at Brooks Cafe in ROCKY MOUNT, at which time, Charles McLean, NAACP field worker, presented the chapter with its NAACP life membership plaque.

*Ohio:* In a letter addressed to superintendent of schools Mark C. Schinnerer, the education committee of the CLEVELAND branch has requested that racial designations on "Pupil Progress Records" be discontinued. The cards are made out for all children in the elementary schools and require that a check be placed in one of four blocks labeled: "Black, White, Red and Yellow."

"This request also applies to any and all other forms, blanks, reports, cards, etc., issued, used or maintained by the Cleveland public school system," the letter continued.

The DAYTON branch has received the Frontiers Brotherhood award for its unswerving devotion to the cause of better human relations and civic betterment leading to first-class citizenship.

*Pennsylvania:* The CHESTER branch is continuing its fight to obtain a completely integrated school system, and it has made much progress toward this goal.

The PHILADELPHIA branch was highly recommended in February by two persons for whom the branch recently won victories.

One of the individuals who was lavish in her praise for the branch was Mrs. Mary McDonald of Sanson Street near 54th. She filed a complaint with the branch in January charging her employer with firing her under circumstances that prevented her from drawing her unemployment compensation. The branch interceded in the case and called for an investigation by the Pennsylvania Compensation Board.

In its negotiations with the board, branch officials expressed their contention that the circumstances surrounding Mrs. McDonald's dismissal constituted "clear cut" discrimination.

The other case involved Jimmie Preston who had been falsely arrested on the basis of "information" received from Tampa, Florida.

It appeared that a James Preston had purchased a TV set there and had left town without paying for it. After hearing the charges, branch attorneys James Baker and Leonidas Allen investigated the case.

On the basis of their investigation they concluded that the case was a matter of mistaken identity. Procedure was arranged for Preston's release and today he is a free man.

The branch has also taken action through its labor and industry committees to have Negroes employed on the Delaware River bridge. The move is to end the non-employment of Negroes.

*Texas:* The SAN ANTONIO branch is working to desegregate local municipal swimming pools.

# College and School News

An educator from Asia and the Far East will be selected this year for the Bryant Mumford Memorial Fellowship, an award designed to encourage the writing of books that will advance teaching about the UNITED NATIONS.

The fellowship is being offered annually for three years, beginning in 1954, to educators from different geographical areas. The first award, offered to an African educator, went to Dr. Joseph Boakye Danquah of the Gold Coast.

A study of an experiment in rural education, "Canada's Farm Radio Forum," has been published by the United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a guide for other countries where scattered populations, vast distances, and lack of trained teachers hamper the spread of education.

■

In a recent series of tests on Ed-u-Card Manufacturing Corporation games by Professor Mary Helen Harden, director of the speech clinic at LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY (Brooklyn, N. Y.) all of the items tested proved to have definite assets in stimulating language and motor activities among children with speech defects.

According to Miss Harden, "A great many speech defects are the result of, or have as undesirable concomitants, psychological conflicts. Since all the Ed-u-Card games are simple to play and have a maximum of fun value, they enable the child to achieve a sense of security and group acceptance while becoming involved in the over-all activity of the various games."

■

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY'S 14th annual exhibition of paintings, sculpture, and prints opened on March 27, with the university offering purchase awards totalling $1400.

The purpose of the exhibit is to present the best creative works by living Negro artists and to bring to light undiscovered talent.

■

Leontyne Price, rising young soprano of "Porgy and Bess" and TV "Tosca" acclaim received the CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE national alumni merit award from President Charles H. Wesley in January for her outstanding achievement in music.

■

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., has awarded a grant of $153,517 to the CARVER FOUNDATION at Tuskegee Institute for the mass culture of HeLa, a project under the direction of Dr. R. W. Brown. The grant covers the period January 1, 1955 through June 30, 1955 and is the third grant of this nature which has been awarded to The Carver Foundation.

■

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse, was the guest speaker

at the fourth annual observance of SHAW UNIVERSITY day in Raleigh on Sunday, February 20.

Hobart Mitchell of New York City appeared at the university church on February 13. A concert baritone and the originator of the poetry-in-song concerts, Mr. Mitchell presented a sermon in song.

■

Dr. Rufus E. Clement, president of Atlanta university and a member of the Atlanta, Georgia, board of education, was the recipient of a check for $500 in New York City in February as the winner of the second annual race relations award of the HOTEL AND CLUB EMPLOYEES UNION, LOCAL 6 (AFL). The distinguished educator was chosen by the union for having "contributed most toward better race relations during 1954," according to a citation which accompanied the cash award. James Marley, secretary-treasurer of the local, made the presentation.

■

Winners in the 1954 annual OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY essay contest have been announced by Dr. Matthew J. Whitehead, director of the national project.

The first place winner was Michael Chamberlin, Evanston Township high school, Evanston, Illinois; second place, Nancy Winn, Pershing high school, Detroit, Michigan; third place, Patricia J. Johnson, James B. Dudley high school, Greensboro, North Carolina; and fourth place, honorable mention, Lynn Fuller, Eckmon high school, Eckmon, West Virginia.

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inal essays on the national achievement week theme for 1954, "America's Challenge: To Implement School Integration by Understanding and Treating Prejudice." One hundred and ninety-six high school students participated in this contest.

■

The SMOOTH ASHLER GRAND LODGE (F. & A.A.Y.) MASONS OF GEORGIA has authorized Grand Master Clim Davenport to make available eighteen $200 scholarships to all high school seniors whose parents or grandparents are members of the York Rite Masons.

Those who are eligible have been invited to submit, in not more than 1000 words, an essay, short story, poem or a one-act play on the subject, "Youth Meets the Challenge of Juvenile Delinquency." The deadline is April 30.

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Dr. Marguerite Cartwright, instructor at HUNTER COLLEGE, was the guest speaker in January during the occasion of the 50th anniversary celebration week of the Harlem branch of the YWCA.

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Charles E. Marshall, who was graduated with honors from Cheyney State Teachers college, has joined the faculty of WILLIAM PENN BUSINESS INSTITUTE (Philadelphia).

■

Dr. Amande P. Horne, professor of biology at Hampton Institute, was principal speaker during the finer womanhood week program at FAYETTEVILLE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE in February.

Less than three percent of all southern league high school graduates are likely to qualify at accredited colleges, according to a report of NSSFNS.

"Of the 1,485 seniors in the top ten percent of their classes, tested during the first year of the Southern project of the NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SERVICE AND FUND FOR NEGRO STUDENTS, almost exactly fifty percent, or 737, qualified as promising college material on a version of the College Entrance Examination Board Scholastic Aptitude Test given them.

"The scores of the students would seem to cast a serious reflection on the effectiveness of the dual school system in the South, at least in the system's ability to produce successful college candidates."

■

Professor C. A. Blue, head of the department of English at LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.), is serving on the executive committee of the conference on composition and communications of the National Council of Teachers of English. He will serve for a three-year period.

The university's candidate for the nation's outstanding journalism student is Harold Vennis Manson, who has been adjudged the most qualified of a group of three recommended by the university journalism school.

■

Benedict college led off the February choral music programs for the regular ABC radio network series presented in cooperation with the UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND. Other college choirs heard during February were those of St. Augus-


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tine's, Morris Brown, and Hampton Institute. Two of the February programs were dedicated to special events. The Benedict broadcast on Febraury 6 paid tribute to the UNCF alumni, and the Morris Brown choir gave a special fellowship program on February 20 in observance of National Brotherhood Week.

The New York City Inter-Alumni Council of UNCF honored the presidents of its thirty-one member colleges at a dinner in the Bowman Room of the Hotel Biltmore, New York City, on March 19.

The dinner highlighted the three-day United Negro Colleges Convocation over the week-end of March 18-20, which was held for the first time.

■

Reverend Charles Jones, pastor of The United Church, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was eighty-eighth founder's day speaker at BARBER-SCOTIA COLLEGE in February. President Cozart announced, during the exercises, that the college has increased its permanent funds from $850,000 to $1,500,000.

Fifty-two students made the dean's list during the first semester.

■

The New York Academy of Sciences has invited Dr. Horace Goldie of MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE to present a paper on "Growth Characteristics of Free Tumor Cells in Various Body Fluids and Tissues of the Mouse" at the May Academy conference.

Meharry's new laboratory for bacteriology and serology, under the direction of Dr. Ben Love, has been completed and is in use. Equipment


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is being installed in the recently completed hematology laboratory.

■

Dr. Harry V. Richardson, president of Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, delivered the founder's day sermon at VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE on March 6.

Lucas Hoving and Lavina Nielsen (a husband and wife team) appeared in a dance recital on the campus on February 17.

Virginia State has received a grant from the Conference of Presidents of Negro Land Grant Colleges for the establishment and maintenance of an audio-visual information and resource center for the member schools of the conference. The center will be directed by Dr. Samuel A. Madden.

■

SPELMAN COLLEGE sponsored, in the Atlanta area, the Cooperative Inter collegiate Examination given by the twenty-one colleges of the United Negro College Fund. These examinations are given in strategic areas throughout the country and are the bases for scholarship assistance.

■

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE observed its 88th founder's day on February 10, with John Hervey Wheeler, president of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank in Durham, North Carolina, as the principal speaker.

Dr. and Mrs. B. R. Brazeal and Dr. and Mrs. Robert H. Brisbane have been selected by an administrative committee at the college to receive European travel awards of $2500 a couple for the summer of 1955. Both couples will spend the summer in travel and informal study in continental Europe and in the British Isles.

■

Celebration of the 86th anniversary of the founding of CLARK COLLEGE was held February 23, with Rev. Glenn Copeland, pastor of Broadway Methodist church, Toledo, Ohio, as the principal speaker.

Clark has risen from an humble beginning with 130 pupils and three teachers in 1869 to a nationally recognized institution with a faculty and staff of more than 72 and more than 700 students.

Dr. Larzette G. Hale, acting chairman of the department of business administration, was awarded the Ph.D. degree at the University of Wisconsin's winter convocation on January 29.

■

President Arthur D. Gray has announced the appointment of a TALLADEGA COLLEGE graduate, Dr. Cohen T. Simpson, as dean of instruction to become effective July 1, 1955.

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